

31 October – 6
November 2020



bulletin



COVID-19 – General

[Report highlights innovation in person-centred care during pandemic](#)

A report on what has enabled good practice in the health and social care sector during the COVID-19 pandemic has been published by Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS) in partnership with the Scottish Social Services Council and Care Inspectorate. HIS recently invited health and social care workers to share their experiences during the pandemic and the report provides an insight into how person-centred care in health and social care services has adapted to meet the challenges of COVID-19 and related public health measures. Caring for children during COVID-19 is one of the categories for examples of innovative practice.

[Living with children no increased risk of severe COVID-19, study finds](#)

Living with children is not linked to a greater risk of severe coronavirus in adults, according to a study highlighted by the BBC. Researchers from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and the University of Oxford looked at data on nine million adults under 65 between February and August, comparing the risks to those living with and without children. Sharing a house with under-18s did not increase the risk of getting seriously ill or dying from COVID-19.

[Additional Support Needs](#)

[Child Protection](#)

[Learning Disability](#)

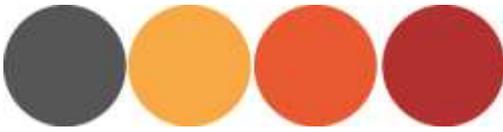
[Early Learning and Childcare](#)

[Justice](#)

[Looked After and Accommodated Children](#)

[Mental Health](#)

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[Latest ONS infection survey results published](#)

The most recent Office for National Statistics (ONS) infection survey results have been published by the Scottish Government. It was estimated between 10 and 23 October the percentage of the population in Scotland testing positive for COVID-19 was 0.71%. In the same 14-day period, it is estimated that an average of 37,400 people in Scotland had COVID-19.

[Furlough scheme extended until end of March](#)

The UK Government's furlough scheme will be extended until the end of March, Chancellor Rishi Sunak has announced. The scheme will pay up to 80% of a person's wage up to £2,500 a month to support businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic. The announcement comes after Prime Minister Boris Johnson [confirmed](#) new national restrictions in England beginning on 5 November.

Additional Support Needs

[Consultation on transitions for people with additional support needs](#)

A consultation for anyone with additional support needs between the ages of 14-25 has been highlighted by the ALLIANCE. The survey has been designed by the Scottish Transitions Forum young leader's team the Divergent Influencers and is designed to get a better understanding of the issues affecting young people in Scotland and to help develop a draft national framework to improve transitions for young people with additional support needs.

Child Protection

[Children \(Equal Protection from Assault\) \(Scotland\) Act comes into force](#)

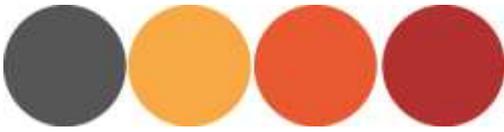
Legislation to protect children from physical punishment comes into force on Saturday 7 November. The [Children \(Equal Protection from Assault\) \(Scotland\) Act 2019](#), introduced by Green MSP John Finnie, is designed to ensure children have the same legal protection from assault as adults, removing the defence of "reasonable chastisement" from the physical assault of children.

Early Learning and Childcare

[Updated COVID-19 guidance for ELC to reflect statutory framework](#)

The Scottish Government has updated non-statutory COVID-19 guidance in relation to early learning and childcare services. The update is to reflect the Scottish Government's recently announced levelled approach to restrictions and the most up to date advice from the COVID-19 Advisory Sub Group on Education and Children's Issues. Also updated:

- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): school aged childcare services](#)



- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): childminder services guidance](#)
- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): guidance on reducing the risks in schools](#)

[Scottish Government follows up after recent committee session on ELC](#)

The Scottish Government has written to the Public Audit Committee to provide further information on early learning and childcare (ELC) following a recent evidence session. Paul Johnston, Director General of Education, Communities and Justice gave evidence on progress following the Auditor General's ELC [follow-up report](#). He has written to the Committee to set out further information on a range of topics, including progress on outdoor infrastructure projects, the reintroduction of the 1,140-hour duty and the funding distribution for the ELC expansion.

[Online events to discuss forthcoming National School Age Childcare Framework](#)

Online events to discuss the next stage of development for the National School Age Childcare Framework are to be hosted by the Scottish Out of School Care Network (SOSCN) in partnership with the Scottish Government School Age Childcare Team. The four events, taking place across November and December, are limited to 20 delegates each which will be allocated on a first come first served basis. The new framework is due to be published in Spring 2021.

[NDNA launches survey on impact of furlough on early years sector](#)

A survey on the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on the early years workforce has been launched by the National Day Nurseries Association (NDNA) and the Education Policy Institute. The survey, the second of a year-long research project, will look at the impact the furlough scheme has had on the sector to date.

Justice

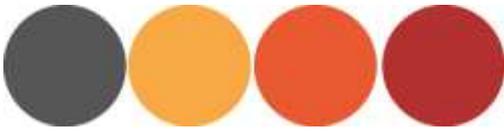
[Paper on improving life chances of children involved in offending gets new look](#)

A paper on improving the life chances of children and young people who are involved in offending behaviour has been updated with a new look by the Children and Young People's Centre for Justice (CYCJ). The paper, first published in October 2019, was produced by the Improving Life Chances Implementation Group on behalf of the Youth Justice Improvement Board, focusing on six key themes: School inclusion; Strengthening relationships and engagement; Victims and community confidence; Improving health and wellbeing; Opportunities for all; Transitions. The paper now includes new infographics to facilitate accessible sharing of information.

Learning Disability

[SCLD highlight data collection gap for people with learning disabilities](#)

A briefing paper urging the Scottish Government and other public bodies to collect and report appropriate data in order to implement policies that consider the UN



Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities has been published by the Scottish Commission for Learning Disability (SCLD). SCLD says the COVID pandemic has brought to light inequalities in how people with learning disabilities are treated, including a lack of adequate data on how COVID is affecting people with a learning disability. This in turn has meant it has been difficult to accurately report the death rate of people with learning disabilities in Scotland.

Looked After and Accommodated Children

[New SCRA guidance on accessing information it holds](#)

The Scottish Children's Reporter Administrator (SCRA) has published new guidance on how people, particularly young and care experienced people, can access information it holds. SCRA worked with Who Cares? Scotland to make the information more accessible and improve how information requests are dealt with.

[CELCIS publishes exploratory paper on use of Section 25 orders in Scotland](#)

An exploration of the purpose, frequency, and variation in the use of Section 25 orders has been published by the Centre for excellence for Children's Care and Protection (CELCIS). The paper presents results from a literature review and data from three local authorities, highlighting: substantial variation in how the orders are used; large numbers of young people who are on, or been on, a Section 25 order; and a large number of orders which have been in effect for longer than two years.

[New Who Cares? Scotland Chief Executive to start in December](#)

Who Cares? Scotland have appointed a new Chief Executive, with Louise Hunter due to take up the role in December. Ms Hunter is Chief Executive of Visibility Scotland and has had a career in the third sector working with young people.

Mental Health

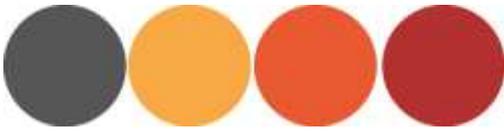
[Funding for children's mental health announced](#)

Funding of £15m is being made available to respond to children and young people's mental health issues, with a focus on those brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Scottish Government has announced. The funding will be distributed to local authorities to support a local response for five to 24-year-olds, their families and carers, with £11.25m for services in response to the pandemic and the remaining £3.75m to be the first instalment of an annual £15m fund to provide new and enhanced community mental health and wellbeing services.

Other Health and Social Care

[Briefing on proposed UNCRC incorporation legislation published](#)

A briefing on a Bill to incorporate the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) into Scottish law has been published by the Scottish Parliament



Information Centre (SPICe). The UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill will mean that public authorities, including Ministers, will be legally obliged to respect children's rights, and that rights-holders will be able to challenge public authorities in the courts for breaches of their rights.

[New continuous professional learning requirement for SSSC registered workers](#)

The new continuous professional learning (CPL) requirement for registered workers has been launched by the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC). The CPL guidance sets out in six steps how registered workers can now log their learning in a way that suits them while also confirming whether they have completed their learning when they renew their registration.

[Guidance on Open Badges published](#)

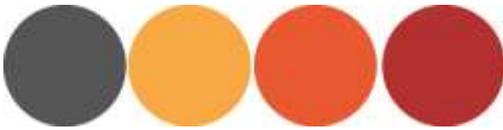
Guidance for social services managers to help workers get the most from their learning activity has been published by the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC). The SSSC notes that the Open Badges have been very popular in recent months, with many social service workers visiting the website for the first time.

[Applications for new Scottish Child Payment to open early](#)

Applications for the Scottish Child Payment will open early, on 9 November, the Scottish Government has announced. The new benefit will give eligible families on low incomes with children an extra £10 per week for each child. The introduction of payments for families with children under six will start from early 2021. It is planned to be fully rolled out to children under the age of 16 by the end of 2022.

[Overview of social care innovation programme published \(England\)](#)

An overview of the evaluation of round 2 of the Children's Social Care Innovation Programme in England has been published by the UK Government. The programme launched in 2014 to test and share effective ways of supporting vulnerable children and young people who need help from children's social care services. Round 2 took place between 2016 and 2020. [Specific evaluations](#), on issues such as fostering and adoption, looked after children and child sexual exploitation, have been published.



Disclaimer

This weekly bulletin is produced as an update on the key issues concerning children and young people.

Each item in the bulletin has a hyperlinked headline that will take the reader to the original source.

We collate items from our parliamentary and Scottish Government monitoring covering health and social care news from throughout the UK, and current research and policy development. We use a variety of sources for the bulletin, including alerts from [Newsdirect](#), [Community Care](#), [Children & Young People Now](#) and [ISD Scotland](#).

We aim to be representative rather than comprehensive, so we try to cover only the main Scottish stories, along with some stories from the rest of the UK. The purpose of the bulletin is to alert readers to items of interest. It should be noted that these items are the works of others and are neither authorised nor endorsed by the Care Inspectorate, with the exception of publications which are identified as Care Inspectorate publications.

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