

7 – 13 November 2020



bulletin



COVID-19 – General

[Weekly COVID-19 stats published by Public Health Scotland](#)

Public Health Scotland has released its weekly COVID-19 statistical report. By Sunday 8 November, 55,367 individuals had been recorded in the contact tracing software, leading to 156,769 unique contacts being traced. There had been 74,075 confirmed cases, with 8,210 in the latest week. In the week ending 8 November, there were 545 admissions to hospital with confirmed COVID-19 and 55 patients were treated in intensive care. 850 people aged 2-17 tested positive.

[Tackling vaccine disinformation](#)

The UK Government has agreed measures to tackle vaccine disinformation with social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter and Google. Platforms endorse the principle that no company should be profiting from COVID-19 vaccine mis/disinformation and commit to swifter responses to flagged content, as well as agreeing to step up work with public health bodies to promote factual and reliable messages.

[COVID-19 – General](#)

[Adoption and Fostering](#)

[Child Protection](#)

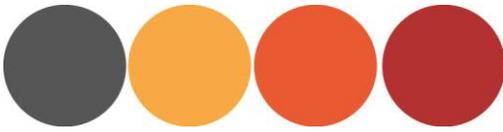
[Early Learning and
Childcare](#)

[Human Rights](#)

[Justice](#)

[Looked After and
Accommodated Children](#)

[Other Health and Social
Care](#)



[Vaccine can prevent more than 90% of people getting COVID-19](#)

Developers Pfizer and BioNTech have confirmed their potential COVID-19 vaccine can prevent more than 90% of people from getting the virus, the BBC reports. The potential vaccine has been tested on 43,500 people in six countries and no safety concerns have been raised. Pfizer believes it will be able to supply 50 million doses by the end of this year, and around 1.3 billion by the end of 2021.

[Refreshed website to help communities work together](#)

A Scottish Government website supporting communities to work together during the COVID-19 pandemic has been refreshed. Ready Scotland provides a range of information for anyone looking for support during the pandemic as well as advice on preparing for winter. It also provides guidance for those who wish to help those around them on an individual or group basis.

[Guidance for providing activities for children](#)

The Scottish Government has published 'Coronavirus (COVID-19): organised activities for children', setting out guidance for the safe running of organised unregulated activities and services provided indoors and outdoors for children and young people, including babies and toddlers, that are voluntary, third sector, parent or peer led or unregulated providers delivering a service or activity directly to children under 18. This guidance is not for regulated childcare settings which are registered with the Care Inspectorate or other registration body.

[Impact of services withdrawn from families](#)

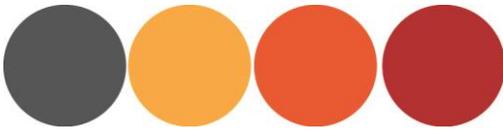
Nursery World highlights a report by the First 1001 Days Movement on the support services for families being withdrawn during the pandemic, and the impact on babies 0 – 2 years old. The 'Babies in Lockdown' report presents the findings of an online survey of senior leaders of pregnancy and 0 – 2s services, and suggests that the redeployment of health visitors, reduction in contacts with families by many services, and pivot to digital and telephone service delivery – where babies are often invisible – all impacted upon the protection of babies and families.

[Factsheet for those asked to self-isolate](#)

A factsheet with information on when and how to self-isolate if an individual has symptoms of COVID-19 has been published by the Scottish Government. The guidance covers financial support, key contacts and sources of mental health advice.

[Inspectorate sets out assurance approach during second wave \(Wales\)](#)

Care Inspectorate Wales has published a statement setting out its approach to assurance during the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. The statement recognises the pressure social care and childcare services are experiencing and



suggests it is “essential” to continue to provide assurance about the safety and well-being of people receiving care during the second wave.

[Effect of COVID-19 across education and social care \(England\)](#)

Ofsted has published the second report in its series on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic across its regulatory remit, from early years and children’s social care, through to post 16 education. Amongst other findings, the report finds that some children, of all ages and backgrounds, have lost some basic skills and learning as a result of school closures and restrictions on movement.

Adoption and fostering

[Getting foster matches right for children \(England\)](#)

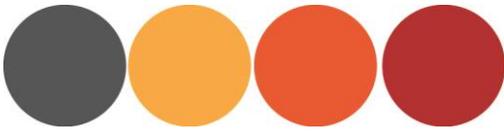
Ofsted has published the results of a study into what contributes to good matching decisions for children in foster care. The study sets out the elements of a good match, including:

- Making sure children feel ‘heard’: children told researchers that they don’t always feel involved in decisions and plans about where they are going to live. When they can say what they want, they don’t always believe that their views make a difference to what happens.
- Good information sharing: giving children the information they need about potential carers is vital, as is making sure that foster carers know everything that they need to know about a child. The best referrals give full and balanced descriptions of children and represent their wishes and feelings.
- Involving birth families and previous carers: professionals recognised that more could be done to involve birth families in matching decisions. Similarly, more could be done to involve previous foster carers and to support their lasting relationships with children.
- Recognising foster carers as professionals: foster carers who felt empowered and confident in their role as part of a wider professional team are typically more likely to ask for additional information about children than carers who feel undervalued or less confident.

Child Protection

[Hearings with Scottish Government for child abuse inquiry](#)

The Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry has updated that hearings relating to the Scottish Government will start on 17 November. Whilst hearings will involve a combination of evidence from witnesses in person and remote evidence by video-link, transcripts will also be published online.



Early Learning and Childcare

[Data on children receiving additional funded ELC hours](#)

According to Cosla, data from the Improvement Service shows that more than 56,000 children (61% of those eligible) are already receiving 1,140 hours of funded early learning and childcare, and more than 74,000 children (80%) are accessing more than the current statutory entitlement of 600 hours, as at the end of August 2020. In addition, 87% of the additional staff forecast to be required for the expansion are now in place.

[Financial and business support update in guidance for childcare sector](#)

The Scottish Government has updated the financial and business support section of its guidance on support for the childcare sector during COVID-19. The update is to reflect the six month extension of the UK Government's Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS).

[New approach to inspecting nurseries and childminders \(England\)](#)

Ofsted is to introduce a new, more proportionate and flexible approach to inspecting nurseries and childminders. When full routine early years inspections resume, Ofsted will schedule early years inspections based on the most current risk assessment of the provision from its work as a regulator, including each provider's previous judgement, in order to prioritise the re-inspection of the relatively small proportion of nurseries, pre-schools and childminders that are not yet good and those where there are significant concerns. This will allow Ofsted to act more proportionately and will align with the inspection approaches for other education and social care providers.

Human Rights

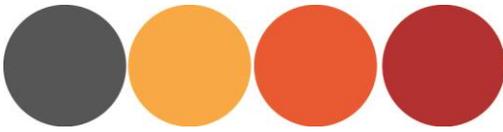
[Impact of COVID-19 restrictions on children's rights](#)

The Scottish Government has published 'Coronavirus (COVID-19): impact of restrictions on children and young people - CRWIA - stage 3'. This Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment (CRWIA) sets out the consideration given to children's rights and wellbeing for the latest COVID-19 restrictions to enable children and young people to live their lives as normally as possible, to reduce the impact on their health and wellbeing.

Justice

[Privacy and confidentiality in the Children's Hearing System](#)

The Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA) has published a policy briefing exploring 'Young people and parents' views on privacy and how this affects their participation in the Children's Hearings System'. SCRA commissioned Who Cares? Scotland to carry out a piece of research in order to fully understand the relationship between privacy and confidentiality in the Hearings System.



Looked After and Accommodated Children

[Evidence summary on care experience children and young people's mental health](#)

The Institute for Research and Innovation in Social Services (Iriss) has published an evidence summary on care experienced children and young people's mental health. The summary covers academic research and grey literature over search terms including care experienced, looked after, care leavers, children, young people, mental health, trauma, child and adolescent mental health services, trauma. The summary also contains a brief overview on how the COVID-19 pandemic and approaches to dealing with it have affected care experienced young people.

["Broken" residential care home market \(England\)](#)

The Children's Commissioner for England has published a set of reports into the children's residential social care system, suggesting that the residential care home market is "broken" and failing many of the most vulnerable children, in particular those who are most at risk of falling through gaps in the system and becoming victims of criminal or sexual exploitation. The reports covers the issues faced by certain groups of children in care for whom the system is not working, growth of private companies providing foster placements and children's homes, and an annual study of the instability that children in care experience.

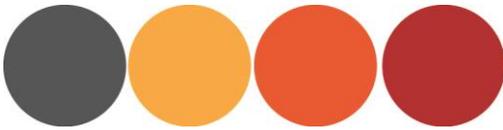
[Best practice for supporting care leavers \(England\)](#)

The UK Government's Department for Education has published a report highlighting best practice from local authorities in England, including increased support for care leavers over the COVID-19 period. Written by the National Implementation Adviser for Care Leavers, looking at progress made since the keep on caring strategy in 2016, the report includes examples of best practice in the implementation of the duties introduced through the Children and Social Work Act, how local authorities have adapted to address the unique challenges the coronavirus pandemic presented for care leavers, and other barriers local authorities may have faced whilst delivering their corporate parenting duties for care leavers.

Other Health and Social Care

[Committee publishes report following 2021/22 pre-budget scrutiny](#)

A report on the Scottish Government's health and social care budget for 2021/22 has been published by a committee at the Scottish Parliament. The Health and Sport Committee focused its pre-budget work on Integration Authority (IA) budgets and the impact of COVID-19, calling on the Scottish Government to measure the consequences of cancelling all non-urgent care at the height of the pandemic. The report's key findings include a lack of information on IA budgets and a lack of engagement with stakeholders by IAs and the need for statutory guidance on this. The Committee took oral evidence from the Care Inspectorate as part of its scrutiny and include a section on our work in its report.



[Support for children and families in winter \(England\)](#)

The UK Government has announced support packages for children and families this winter, following a campaign by Marcus Rashford. A £170m COVID Winter Grant Scheme will be run by councils in England and the Holiday Activities & Food programme will be expanded to cover Easter, summer and Christmas in 2021.

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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