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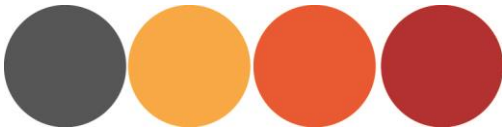
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COVID-19 – General

[Lockdown restrictions to be strengthened](#)

Further measures to strengthen lockdown restrictions have been announced by the Scottish Government's First Minister to help stop the spread of COVID-19 and limit non-essential contact. The measures include:

- nobody who lives in a Level 4 area should leave or remain outside their home except for essential purposes
- working from home arrangements will be strengthened through updated statutory guidance, and working from home should now be the default position for all businesses and services
- click and collect retail services will be required to provide timeslots and people should not enter a store to collect an item
- takeaway food businesses will also have to operate on a 'non-entry' basis
- restrictions banning the consumption of alcohol in public places will also be introduced



[Vaccines delivery plan](#)

The UK Government has published a UK-wide plan for the delivery of the COVID-19 vaccine, aiming to have offered a first vaccine dose to everyone in the top four priority groups identified by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) by 15 February. The Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport Jeane Freeman has provided an update to parliament on [the Scottish Government's COVID-19 vaccination plan](#). Ms Freeman has outlined the progress in delivering the first dose of the vaccine, and has confirmed supplies of Pfizer and AstraZeneca are coming. The Scottish Government has also published a [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccine deployment plan 2021](#).

[Campaign to encourage people to stay at home](#)

The UK Government has launched a new campaign to encourage people to stay at home and act like they have the COVID-19 virus. The public information campaign will be fronted by the Chief Medical Officer, Professor Chris Whitty, and will run across TV, radio, out of home and on social media.

[Latest COVID-19 data](#)

Public Health Scotland (PHS) has released its weekly COVID-19 statistical report. By Sunday 10 January, 163,203 individuals had received their first dose of vaccination, whilst 151,547 individuals had tested positive. 13,282 positive cases occurred in the latest week, with 978 new admissions to hospital and 107 new admissions to intensive care units. 929 people aged 5-17 tested positive.

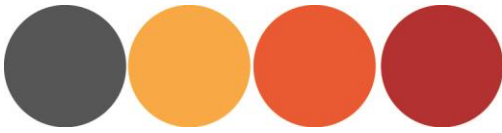
[Study suggests immunity can last for up to five months](#)

A study, led by Public Health England and including Public Health Scotland, has found most people who have had COVID-19 are protected from catching it again for at least five months, the BBC report. Past infection has been linked to an 83% lower risk of getting the virus, compared to those who have never had the virus. The results are reported as encouraging, but there is a warning that protection is not absolute.

Child Protection

[Evidence relating to Boarding Schools to be delayed](#)

The Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry Chair Lady Smith has announced the postponement of Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry hearings to examine the abuse of children in boarding schools. The hearings were due to begin later this month but will now be rescheduled in light of the new COVID-19 restrictions and public health advice.



[Supplementary National Child Protection Guidance updated](#)

The Scottish Government's Children and Families Directorate has updated guidance for Chief Officers, Chief Social Work Officers and Child Protection Committees on the continuity of services. The supplementary national child protection guidance includes the following changes:

- updated to reflect National Strategic Framework (November 2020)
- updated to reflect effective practices during COVID-19 in relation to Registration through virtual Child Protection Planning/Case Conferences
- references updated and supplemented

[Reporting of child sexual abuse during the pandemic](#)

The Scottish Government's Cabinet Secretary for Justice Humza Yousaf has written to the Justice Sub-Committee on Policing responding to concerns about the reporting of child sexual abuse during the COVID-19 pandemic. The letter outlines what work the Justice Board is doing to improve the collation of data on CSA and its co-ordination between agencies.

[Evidence summary of COVID-19 impact on wellbeing](#)

The Scottish Government has published a summary of Scottish and UK evidence on the impact of COVID-19 on the wellbeing of children and young people. The summary covers a broad range of policy interests but focuses predominantly on social and emotional impacts of COVID-19 on children and young people aged 3-18, with a particular interest in children and families experiencing vulnerabilities, disadvantage, or discrimination.

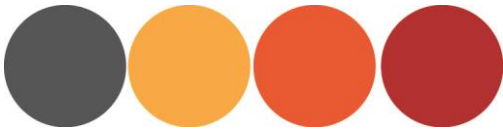
Early Learning and Childcare

[Guidance for ELC and school age childcare services updated](#)

The Scottish Government has updated their supplementary guidance for regulated early learning and childcare (ELC) and school age childcare services. The updates for January 2021 include updates to vulnerable children and children of key workers and financial support sections, and updates following the First Ministers statement to Parliament on 4 January 2021.

[Applications for Outdoor Clothing Fund open](#)

The Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) is highlighting that a Scottish Government Outdoor Clothing Fund has opened for applications on 15 January. The fund will be managed by Inspiring Scotland's Thrive Outdoors on behalf of the Scottish Government, and aims to provide appropriate outdoor clothing, to children who do not currently have access to these items, to reduce inequalities and improve access to outdoor experiences in early learning and childcare.



[Childcare Provision Notice](#)

Following the First Minister's announcement on further public health measures in response to the new variant of COVID-19 are to be put in place, the Scottish Government's Early Learning and Childcare Directorate has issued a letter to all registered childcare providers, confirming the updated guidance which will apply until at least 1 February 2021.

[Updated guidance for childminders](#)

The Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) has published updated guidance for childminders remaining open throughout restrictions, following its participation in a meeting of the national childcare sector recovery working group. The guidance sets out the basis on which childminding settings can continue to operate.

Justice

[Film about Compulsory Supervision Orders](#)

A film has been produced by the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA) to inform children and young people about Compulsory Supervision Orders (CSOs). The short film covers what a CSO is, what it means for children and young people and how long it can last. It also covers the right to appeal, advocacy and legal representation and where to get more information.

[Action plan in response to thematic review of youth offending services \(England\)](#)

Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service and the Ministry of Justice have published a thematic review action plan of the work of youth offending services during the COVID-19 pandemic. This review is in response to the previous HM Inspectorate of Probation inspection report

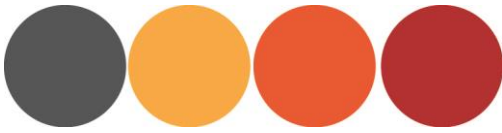
Looked After and Accommodated Children

[Children reportedly sent to unregulated care homes during pandemic \(England\)](#)

During the pandemic, children have reportedly been sent to unregulated care homes as there are not enough places for those at risk of 'abuse or exploitation', the Guardian reports. [BASW England](#) has responded to these reports and has urged the UK Government to ban under-18's in care from being placed in unregulated care; however, it also acknowledges this would lead to a short-term lack of placements for children and young people.

[Independent review of children's social care \(England\)](#)

Children & Young People Now reports that the UK Government's Education Secretary Gavin Williamson is launching an independent review of children's social care in England. The review will reportedly cover the process from referral through to children becoming looked after and will address major challenges such as the



increase in numbers of looked-after children, the inconsistencies in children's social care practice, outcomes across the country, and the failure of the system to provide enough stable homes for children.

Other Health and Social Care

[Text service for complaints](#)

The Care Inspectorate has launched a new children and young people complaint text service. This text service will add to the other ways young people can raise concerns about the quality of their care, and will allow young people to be more informed about their rights to quality care and support which we hope will build trust and allow us to improve their experience of care.

[Draft framework for family-based care](#)

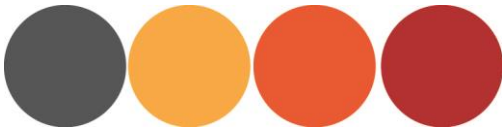
In July 2018 the Care Inspectorate began introducing new frameworks for inspection and self-evaluation across the range of services which we regulate, and we have now developed the draft quality framework for family-based care in consultation with providers, inspectors, umbrella bodies and membership organisations. We want your feedback to ensure that we are developing quality illustrations that reflect good practice, legislation and the range of care and support provided and that should be experienced. When you have looked at the draft quality framework please let us know your views by completing [our short survey](#). The closing date for the survey is 29th January 2021.

[Bill to incorporate children's rights into Scots law gains committee support](#)

The Scottish Parliament's Equalities and Human Rights Committee has said it supports the general principles of the proposed United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill, which will legally oblige public authorities – including Scottish Ministers – to respect children and young people's rights, placing them under a duty not to act incompatibly with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). However, the Committee has also called for the definition of public authorities to be widened to ensure organisations such as private schools and private housing, residential care and childcare providers are not excluded from the legal obligations in the UNCRC.

[Call for disadvantages and children living in poverty to be addressed](#)

The UK's Children's Commissioners are calling on the UK and devolved Governments to address the systemic disadvantages facing children and young people, amongst other issues highlighting the rates of children living in poverty. The Commissioners have submitted a report to the United national Committee on the Rights of the Child setting out 30 issues around children's human rights which need action.



[Updates on Scottish Parliament petitions](#)

The Scottish Parliament's Education & Skills Committee has written to Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills John Swinney seeking an update on PE01692: Inquiry into the human rights impact of GIRFEC policy and data processing and PE1548: National Guidance on Restraint and Seclusion in Schools. The Committee are specifically looking for an update on when materials to support information sharing are expected to be published, and timescales for a working group developing new guidance in relation to restraint and seclusion in schools.

[Creating a culture of resilience in social work](#)

The Institute for Research and Innovation in Social Services (Iriss) has published a blog on how to create a culture of resilience for social workers, outlining the concept of emotional resilience, how policy and practice of social work can influence the development of organisational cultures and the implications for practice.

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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