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COVID-19

[Lockdown restrictions extended](#)

The First Minister confirmed this week that current lockdown measures will stay in place across mainland Scotland and some island communities until at least the middle of February. Measures will be kept under consideration and Parliament will be updated following a Cabinet Review on 2 February.

[Social renewal board publishes findings](#)

The Scottish Government has published the final report of the Social Renewal Advisory Board titled “If not now, when?”. The Social Renewal Advisory Board was set up by Scottish Ministers to make proposals that can renew Scotland once the country starts to emerge from the pandemic. The final report sets a course towards this future. The report focuses on: money and work; people, rights and advancing equality; and communities and collective endeavour.



[Vaccination awareness campaign](#)

A new information campaign on COVID-19 vaccinations has been launched by the Scottish Government. The 'Roll your sleeves up' campaign will emphasise the importance of the vaccine and its safety, as well as the prioritisation list set out by Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) to ensure those most at risk are vaccinated first.

[Impact of pandemic on babies explored in new report](#)

A new report by the 1001 Days Movement has highlighted the impact of the pandemic on babies. CELCIS, who is a member of the movement, reported on the findings which suggest there were "hidden harms" from the spring 2020 lockdown on children aged zero to 2 years. The report also states that historically inadequate or insecure funding, and a rising tide of need, has inhibited the ability of some services and areas to respond to the coronavirus crisis.

[Evidence paper on pandemic mitigation measures](#)

The Scottish Government has published a summary of evidence on COVID-19 mitigation measures aimed at children and young people. The working paper looks at evidence around measures such as the use of face coverings in schools. It focuses on understanding of restrictions; communications aimed at young people; compliance and enforcement; and wellbeing impacts on young people.

Additional Support Needs

[Parents of children with complex needs call for special schools to reopen](#)

Parents of children with additional support needs have reported they are struggling to cope during lockdown due to lack of support and respite, the BBC reports. Parents have requested that schools for children with complex needs are reopened and continue to operate full time in all areas. They have also asked that staff in these schools are vaccinated as a priority. Minister for Children and Young People, Maree Todd, has said that the needs of children should be considered by the team around them, including parents.

Early Learning and Childcare

[SCMA highlights importance of prioritising childminders for vaccine](#)

The Scottish Childminding Association has highlighted reports that the COVID-19 vaccine is being offered to community childminders in Fife. In response, the SCMA said Fife Council and NHS Fife had recognised community childminders are involved in the direct delivery of frontline social care services. The statement added: "However, we believe that this prioritisation should not just be restricted to Community Childminders and that provision of the vaccine should be extended to all childminders. SCMA wrote to NHS Fife requesting this extension. NHS Fife has



confirmed that they are not able to extend this to the wider childminding community in Fife at this time as they are not included as a priority group within the guidance from the JCVI and the Chief Medical Officer for Scotland.”

[Letter highlights concern over lasting effects of COVID on children](#)

The chief executive of SOSCN, Irene Audain, has co-signed a letter urging the UK Government to establish an independent commission which could inform a cross-government strategy on supporting children and young people through the lasting effects of COVID-19. The letter, published in The Guardian, says this independent commission should bring together representatives from across the sector, including charities, school leaders, teaching unions, education experts, doctors and mental health professionals, as well as the children’s commissioner.

[Childminding Action Plan](#)

The Scottish Government has published a new Childminding Action Plan, setting out the Scottish Government’s vision for the sector and the actions to support it that are being taken now and into the future. The plan sets out 9 short and medium term commitments, including:

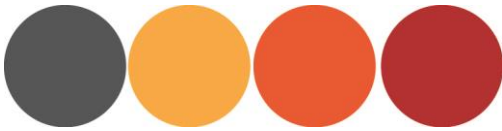
- Develop new online support sessions, together with Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate.
- Publish an additional chapter to “Out to Play” providing specific advice and guidance for childminders who want to increase and improve their outdoor play experiences for children].
- Begin (previously committed to) independent research on the trends within the childminding workforce, to be overseen by the Scottish Government, Care Inspectorate and SCMA.
- Establish a short-life working group(s) with key partners, including sector representatives, local authorities, Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate, to explore flexibilities and good practice which would better support childminders to offer the ELC entitlement.

The Scottish Government also [announced](#) that funding of £1 million has been made available for childminders who have been financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Justice

[Briefing on Scottish child interviews](#)

COSLA has published a briefing paper on the National Joint Investigative Interviewing project, in partnership with Police Scotland. The topic of the paper is the emerging learning from the pilot sites in preparing for installation of the new model of joint investigative interviewing – the Scottish Child Interview Model. It focuses on the early period where both sites were planning their implementation and beginning to make adjustments and modifications across the local system.



Mental Health

[Parents' stress levels rise during lockdown](#)

A study by the University of Oxford has highlighted the levels of stress, depression and anxiety among parents and carers during lockdowns. Researchers surveyed over 6,000 parents and carers between mid March and December 2020. On an established scale of depression, anxiety and stress, parents' depression scores increased from April through to June from an average of 9.03 to 9.71, says the study funded by the Economic and Social Research Council.

Other Health and Social Care

[Annual returns deadline extended](#)

The Care Inspectorate has revised its deadline for services submitting their annual returns. Due to the current pressure services may be experiencing, and the restrictions on some services' ability to operate, the deadline has been extended to Sunday 28 March, providing an additional four weeks for completion.

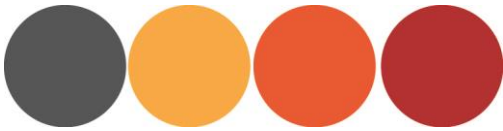
[Care Inspectorate Statistical Summary Report](#)

The Care Inspectorate has released its latest Statistical Summary Report for Quarter 3 of 2021/21. The report presents data on the number of registered care services, new registrations and cancellations, complaints about care services and quality theme grades all by care service type and or service sector. This is updated on a quarterly basis.

Other

[Investment in local carer services](#)

Funding has been announced for local carer centres, to increase support for unpaid carers and help them to take a break from caring roles. The Scottish Government said the additional investment would allow carer centres to react flexibly to the needs of carers in their local areas.



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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