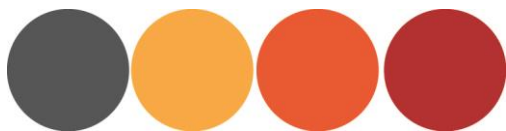


[COVID-19 - General](#)[Early Learning and
Childcare](#)[Education](#)[Justice](#)[Looked After and
Accommodated Children](#)[Mental Health](#)[Other](#)**COVID-19 - General**[Impact of lockdown on children's speech and language](#)

NurseryWorld reports on new figures from the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists (RCSLT) which suggest 62 per cent of children needing speech and language therapy did not receive any support during the first lockdown. The RCSLT highlighted the consequences on children's mental health, educational attainment, social skills and family life and are calling on the Government to put speech and language at the heart of educational recovery plans.

[Action for Children report on lockdown impact on families](#)

Action for Children has published findings on the emotional, economic and educational impact of lockdown on children, young people and families. In March 2020, 74 per cent of staff relayed that families feared for their mental health as the biggest concern. A year later, 40 per cent of staff said families fear their children falling behind with their education with a third saying parents didn't understand or have the ability to help their kids with schoolwork. The charity has launched its Roadmap to Resilience manifesto for the Scottish Parliament elections in response to the concerns raised in the research.



[Timetable for lockdown easing](#)

The First Minister has set out the timetable for easing lockdown. Stay at home regulations will be lifted on 2 April and services including hairdressers, garden centres and click and collect services will open from 5 April. Other plans, which are dependent on continued progress on vaccination and suppression of the virus, include:

- All restrictions lifted on journeys in mainland Scotland on 26 April
- Reopening of the hospitality sector, starting with outdoor services, from 26 April
- Groups of four people from two households can socialise indoors from 17 May
- Outdoor contact sport for adults can resume on 17 May

Early Learning and Childcare

[Evidence review on nature-based early learning and childcare](#)

A review of global evidence aimed to understand the extent to which nature-based early learning and childcare influences young children's physical, cognitive, and social and emotional development has been published by the Scottish Government.

[Supplementary guidance on outdoor play](#)

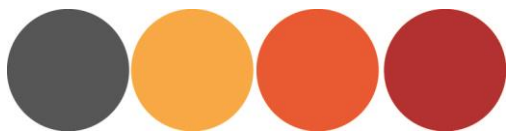
The Scottish Government has published three new sections of the Out to Play guidance on outdoor play experiences. The supplementary guidance should be used alongside the main Out to Play document to support the delivery of outdoor experiences for children in ELC. Specific guidance is now available for:

- [Childminding settings](#)
- [Out of school care providers](#)
- [Practitioners supporting children with additional support needs](#)

Education

[Review of support for children and young people during remote learning](#)

Education Scotland has published the findings of a national overview of how schools are supporting the health and wellbeing of children and young people during remote learning. The report highlights examples of practice which illustrate what is working well in schools within six local authorities including recent case studies from some of the schools and local authorities.



[Progress towards vision for school age childcare](#)

The School Age Childcare Progress Report has been published by the Scottish Government, looking at progress since the public consultation in 2019 and setting out steps to move closer to the vision for school age childcare while considering the impact of the pandemic.

Justice

[Views sought on virtual hearings](#)

The Scottish Children's Reporter Administration has launched an online survey on virtual hearings. They are seeking views on anyone who has participated in a virtual hearing since they began in March 2020.

Looked After and Accommodated Children

[CELCIS reiterates commitment to The Promise](#)

CELCIS has published its commitment to the changes and improvements called for in the publication of the findings and conclusions of Scotland's Independent Care Review in The Promise. The body has set out how it continues to bring together a range of knowledge, skills and attributes to help deliver The Promise for care experienced children and young people. Commitments on meaningful participation and engagement, having respect for multiple perspectives on what needs to change, building skills and abilities within teams and organisations, and raising awareness have been made by CELCIS.

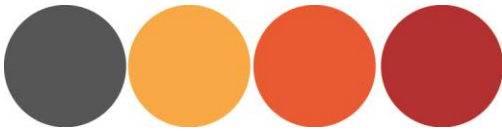
Mental Health

[Mental Health Strategy progress report published](#)

The Scottish Government's third progress report on the mental health strategy 2017 to 2027 has been published. The progress report reflects the decision to prioritise work around the pandemic, with key themes including mental health services, vulnerable groups, restricted patients and workforce wellbeing. The report also highlights progress made in other areas including support for young people with eating disorders and early intervention in psychosis.

[Perinatal mental health action plan](#)

The Scottish Government has published an action plan for peer support in perinatal mental health. The plan, which will run until 2023, includes actions in a range of areas including supporting existing good practice, ensuring safety and quality, accessibility and inclusivity and integrating of robust evaluation.

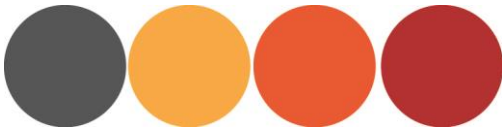


Other

[Children's rights legislation passed](#)

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill was passed by MSPs at the Scottish Parliament this week. The Bill is designed to incorporate the UNCRC into law in Scotland and will replace the reporting duty placed upon public bodies by the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. The Bill specifies that:

- public authorities must not act in a way that's incompatible with UNCRC requirements
- courts will have powers to decide if legislation is compatible with UNCRC requirements
- the Scottish Government can change laws to make sure they are compatible with UNCRC requirements
- the Children and Young People's Commissioner in Scotland would have power to take legal action if children's rights under the UNCRC are breached
- the Scottish Government must publish a Children's Rights Scheme to show how they are meeting UNCRC requirements and explain their future plans for children's rights
- the Scottish Government must review how the Scheme is working every year
- other public authorities mentioned in the Bill must report every three years on what they have done to meet UNCRC requirements.

**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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