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COVID-19 – General

[Asymptomatic lateral-flow tests available to order](#)

Asymptomatic lateral-flow test kits are now available to order, the Scottish Government has confirmed. These can be picked up from walk-through or drive through test sites from 3.30pm each day, ordered online or by phone. The expansion of test availability aims to find cases that would otherwise be undetected and to ensure people testing positive self-isolate.

[Impact of the pandemic on different households](#)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has published ‘Coronavirus and the social impacts on households in subnational areas in Great Britain: 2020 and 2021’, which uses indicators from the ONS Opinions and Lifestyle Survey to understand the impacts of the pandemic.

[Call for right to family support](#)

A coalition of children’s organisations have called for a “radical” expansion and enhancement of support available to families to recover from the pandemic. The campaigners, including the Coalition of Care and Support Providers (CCPS) and Barnardo’s Scotland, have issued an open letter highlighting the impact of the pandemic on family mental health as well as economic pressures.



[Latest COVID statistics published](#)

Public Health Scotland has released its weekly COVID-19 statistical report. By Sunday 25 April, there had been 225,346 confirmed cases, with 1,327 in the latest week. In the same week, there were 79 admissions to hospital with confirmed COVID-19 and six new patients were treated in intensive care. In the week ending 11 April, there were seven confirmed cases under the school testing programme.

[Care Inspectorate fortnightly report on inspections, 28 April 2021](#)

The Care Inspectorate has published a report of inspections carried out in care services in the past two weeks. This report covers inspections we have completed since those detailed in our previous report of 14 April. This report is routinely laid before the Scottish Parliament every fortnight but because of the current election period, it will not be formally laid until the next session of Parliament begins.

Child Protection

[Financial redress for abuse survivors](#)

A Bill set up to introduce a scheme for financial payments (“redress payments”) to survivors of historical child abuse in care has now received Royal Assent and became an Act on 23 April 2021. The Redress for Survivors (Historical Child Abuse in Care) (Scotland) Bill also sets up a new independent public body, Redress Scotland, to make decisions about payments; allows organisations involved with residential care of children in the past to pay financial contributions to the scheme; and provides survivors of abuse with other practical and emotional support.

[Rise in calls about children’s welfare in lockdown](#)

The NSPCC has highlighted the rise in calls to its helpline during the pandemic. The charity said a record number of adults with concerns about children called the helpline in the last 12 months, with adult health and behaviour the top concern. Calls also focused on neglect, physical abuse and emotional abuse.

[Phase 2 of public hearings on abuse in boarding schools to commence on 4 May](#)

Phase 2 of public hearings examining the abuse of children in boarding schools will commence on 4 May 2021. Phase 2 will begin with evidence relating to Loretto School in Musselburgh, and Morrison’s Academy in Crieff, during the time it was a boarding school. Dates for hearings relating to other schools are to be confirmed.

Early Learning and Childcare

[Nursery children to be included in gender equality project](#)

Glasgow Women’s Aid is planning to include nursery age children in its new project offering education in healthy relationships and gender equality, The Herald reports.



As part of the scheme, outreach workers will go into schools to educate primary and secondary pupils about issues such as consent and coercive control. It is hoped under fives will be included in this work, when COVID restrictions allow, with age-appropriate messages about respectful relationships and gender equality.

[Financial sustainability survey for ELC providers launched](#)

A survey of day care of children services designed to understand the factors affecting their current financial sustainability has been launched by the Scottish Government. The survey, which includes questions on the impact of the pandemic, is open until Monday 10 May, while a separate survey for childminding services will be launched on 30 April.

[Public Health Scotland report on early child development](#)

A report on early child development when assessed during various early year reviews has been published by Public Health Scotland. It states in 2019-20, 10% of children undergoing a 13-15 month review, 14% at 27-30 month review and 13% of children attending a 4-5 year review had a concern recorded in at least one area of their development. The figures suggest that at 13-15 month reviews, most concerns were recorded about gross motor and speech, language and communication.

[SCMA writes to Scottish Government on charging of fees for self-isolating families](#)

The Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) has written to the Scottish Government to ask that childminders be allowed to charge retainer fees or be directly compensated for any loss of income arising from families self-isolating. The SCMA has highlighted an update it received from the Scottish Government which stated that childcare providers should not charge parents or carers fees if children and their families are required to self-isolate. The SCMA has highlighted the [findings](#) of a survey regarding childminders' experiences of self-isolation, fees and payment.

[Update for childminders on expanded access to testing](#)

The Scottish Government has written to childminders to update on expanded access to COVID-19 testing. Since February, childminders have been able to access asymptomatic PCR testing if they are concerned about being exposed to COVID-19. That access remains in place, while childminders are also able to access lateral flow testing, now available for anyone in the population who wishes it.

[Guide to support becoming anti-racist and inclusive early years educator](#)

A resource to support practitioners to nurture inclusive, anti-racist attitudes in young children has been launched by early years business tiny. The guidance aims to be a reflective tool with topics covered including how to examine your own anti-racist behaviours, how to create an inclusive early learning environment and how to talk to under-fives about diversity.



[Analysis of Best Start payments](#)

A Scottish Government publication includes information on applications and payments for the Best Start Grant and Best Start Foods. The Best Start Grant consists of three different benefit payments: Pregnancy and Baby Payment; Early Learning Payment; and School Age Payment. Out of all applications, it is estimated that 85,715 were for Pregnancy and Baby Payment, 85,720 were for Early Learning Payment, 60,365 were for School Age Payment, and 126,775 for Best Start Foods.

Justice

[Updated Vision for Young People in Custody published by Scottish Prison Service](#)

The Scottish Prison Service has refreshed its co-produced Vision for Young People in Custody. The updated Vision reflects new evidence and developments changing the landscape of youth justice in Scotland, including the continuing reduction in the numbers of young people in custody and the incorporation of the UNCRC into Scottish law.

[Tips on how to further develop participative practice](#)

Practical tips on how to further develop participative practice in youth justice work has been published by the Children and Young People's Centre for Justice (CYCJ). The tips have been developed by members of STARR, Youth Just Us and individuals who helped in the development of CYCJ's participation strategy.

[CYCJ paper collates data on children in conflict with the law](#)

A paper collating a range of official statistics on children in conflict with the law has been published by the Children and Young People's Centre for Justice (CYCJ). Highlighting the challenges in accessing information on children who get drawn into the adult criminal justice system, the paper documents what data exists, where and when it is published, as well as providing the available data for the past five years.

Looked after and accommodated children

[Research on test of change to improve permanence timescales published](#)

Research testing a two-week planning meeting to improve permanence timescales has been published by the Centre for excellence for Children's Care and Protection (CELCIS). The research focuses on the decisions, activities, and reporting that one local authority partnership undertook when introducing a formal Looked After Child Review meeting at two weeks as part of the Permanence and Care Excellence (PACE) programme.



Mental Health

[Survey of parents supports call for mental health curriculum change](#)

A third of parents in Scotland do not feel there is enough mental health education within their child's school curriculum, according to a report by the Mental Health Foundation. The report also found 43% of adults with children under 18 who go to school do not feel they have been provided with enough support, information or advice from the school to support their child's mental health. The Mental Health Foundation Scotland is calling for the next Scottish Government to embed mental health education within the Curriculum for Excellence.

Other Health and Social Care

[Scottish Association of Social Work manifesto published](#)

The Scottish Association of Social Work has published its manifesto ahead of the election in May. Across three priority areas – human rights, poverty and the experiences of social workers – the manifesto features seven asks, including: commit to providing greater human rights protection for all citizens in law; ensure local authorities are funded to address the needs of all vulnerable people whatever their immigration status; talk to people with lived experience of poverty and involve them in policy development; involve the social work profession at all levels in all developments of social services; commit to fully implementing self-directed support.

[Latest Care Inspectorate statistical summary](#)

The Care Inspectorate Statistical Summary Report for Quarter 4 of 2020/21 has now been released. 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.

[SSSC publishes 2021-25 equalities report](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has published its fifth Equality, Inclusion and Diversity Mainstreaming and Outcomes Report. The report includes recent progress and introduces three equality outcomes for the next four years, as well as plans to deliver and report on them.

[Figures on recipients of child winter heating support](#)

The Scottish Government has published statistics on recipients of Child Winter Heating Assistance payments during winter 2020/2021. 14,015 Child Winter Heating Assistance payments were made in winter 2020/2021. The number of children in receipt increases from age 0 to age 8, with two thirds of payments being for children aged 8 to 15.



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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