



Covid-19 - General

[Summary of evidence on Covid-19 impact on children's wellbeing](#)

A summary of Scottish and UK evidence on the impact of Covid-19 on the wellbeing of children, young people, and families has been published by the Scottish Government. The sixth in a series of briefings, the report highlights anxiety and stress persisting for young people during the latter part of 2020 and early 2021, a return to behavioural and emotional difficulties for school-aged children during the second lockdown, and consistently low levels of mental wellbeing among parents with young children.

[Latest weekly Covid-19 statistics published by Public Health Scotland](#)

Public Health Scotland has published its latest weekly statistical report on Covid-19. There have been 274,217 confirmed COVID-19 cases, with 17,351 in the week ending 27 June. In the week ending 22 June, there were 216 admissions to hospital with a laboratory confirmed test of COVID-19. The highest number of new admissions were seen amongst those aged 20-29 years and 30-39 years.

[Vaccine self-registration portal for all over 18s launched](#)

A self-registration portal for Covid-19 vaccinations is now available to all over 18s, the Scottish Government has announced. Anyone aged 18 and over who has not received a first vaccination appointment or has missed their first dose for any reason is being invited to self-register for

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[Child Protection](#)

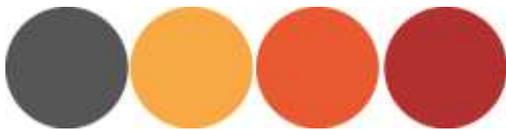
[Children's Rights](#)

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an appointment. The system was initially used to encourage unpaid carers and 18-29 year olds to come forward.

[JCVI advice on booster vaccinations from September](#)

Interim advice on Covid-19 booster vaccinations has been issued by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI). The JCVI recommends that any booster programme should be offered in two stages from September, starting with those most at risk from serious disease. This group would include care home residents, people aged over 70, frontline health and social care workers, clinically extremely vulnerable adults and those who are immunosuppressed. Stage two would include adults over 50, all adults aged 16-49 years who are in an influenza or Covid at-risk group and adult household contacts of immunosuppressed individuals.

[Pandemic exacerbated young carers' financial issues, report finds](#)

Many young carers have been forced into financial difficulties during the Covid-19 pandemic, according to a joint report by Oxfam and the University of the West of Scotland. The report's findings were based on qualitative interviews with young carers and cover issues such as the nature of young carers' economic circumstances, the impact of Covid-19, and how young carers' economic circumstances impact their vision for the future. The research found young carers' financial difficulties were exacerbated over the past year and that many had put in additional caring hours due to a lack of support services.

Child Protection

[Website launched for Inclusion as Prevention project](#)

A website has been launched for the Inclusion as Prevention (IAP) project between the Children and Young People's Centre for Justice, Action for Children, Dartington Service Design Lab and South Lanarkshire Council. The National Lottery funded project is working with the South Lanarkshire community to collaboratively shift and re-shape the design and delivery of services for children and young people at risk of offending, and their families. The website features the IAP journey, learning resources, blogs and artwork, information about the team, and useful connections.

Children's Rights

[Supreme Court to rule on legal challenge to UNCRC Bill after hearing evidence](#)

The Supreme Court has heard from legal representatives of both Scottish and UK governments on whether legislation to incorporate the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) into Scottish law is within the Scottish Parliament's competency. The UK Government argues that the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill, passed by MSPs this year, could place obligations on UK ministers to act in areas reserved to Westminster. The judges are to return a judgement as soon as possible, the BBC reports.



[Annual children's rights report survey launched](#)

A survey to inform an annual children's rights report has been launched by Together, the Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights. Each year Together produces a State of Children's Rights Report to monitor Scotland's progress in implementing the UNCRC and wider international human rights treaties. Ahead of the expected implementation of the UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill, the 2021 report will offer practical guidance and case studies on implementing children's rights-based approaches. Through the survey, Together is looking to identify challenges faced in implementing a children's rights-based approach and examples of promising practice.

Early Learning and Childcare

[Call for examples to inform My Active World resource](#)

The Care Inspectorate wants to hear from practitioners to inform a resource to encourage opportunities for children to be physically active across their day. By sharing experiences for children in early learning and childcare settings, including childminding and school aged childcare, we hope My Active World will encourage and inspire people working with young children to provide a wide variety of opportunities to learn and play in an active way both indoors and outdoors. If you would like to share your experiences with us, please [email](#) by 31 July 2021

[Latest ELC Covid-19 update issued by Scottish Government](#)

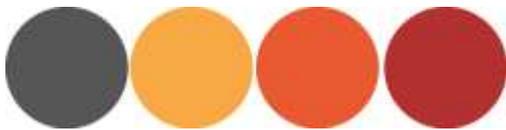
The Scottish Government has issued its latest early learning and childcare (ELC) Covid-19 update. The newsletter is now designed to be more concise and focused on news. The June issue includes information on new Covid-19 guidance for ELC and the new quality framework published by the Care Inspectorate among range of news items.

[NDNA publishes FOI results on ELC funding rates from August](#)

The National Day Nurseries Association (NDNA) has published the results of a Freedom of Information (FOI) request issued to all Scottish local authorities on what they will be paying providers for the delivery of funded early learning and childcare places from August. According to the NDNA, nine out of 32 councils have confirmed that their hourly rates to providers will stay the same as the previous year upon introduction of the statutory 1,140 hours duty. The NDNA says that for providers in those areas this represents a real terms reduction of their hourly rate when increased costs for the Living Wage are taken into account.

[SOSCN publishes results of short survey on Summer of Play funding](#)

The results of a short survey on Summer of Play funding have been published by the Scottish Out of School Care Network (SOSCN). The Scottish Government funding supports delivery of a range of activities for children and young people and their families over the summer. The survey received 86 responses from services based in



23 local authorities, with SOSCN suggesting the results align with what they had heard anecdotally regarding “very varied” access to the funding across Scotland.

Looked After and Accommodated Children

[Promise progress and actions set out in first Change Programme report](#)

The first report capturing the work and progress of the programme to deliver the recommendations of the Independent Care Review has been published by The Promise. Change Programme ONE follows on from Plan 21-24 and outlines what is happening now, what is happening next and what needs to happen across the five priority areas: A Good Childhood; Whole Family Support; Supporting the Workforce; Planning; Building Capacity. The Change Programme is designed to be live and will be updated over time.

- The Scottish Government has [announced](#) that the Promise Partnership Fund, worth £4m a year, will continue up to 2024/25. The fund is open to private, public and third sector organisations and care-experienced people help make the final funding decisions.

[Surveys of young people’s experience of care to be introduced in Scotland](#)

Two established surveys of young people’s experience of care are to be brought to Scotland in a partnership between Coram Voice and the Centre of excellence for Children’s Care and Protection (CELCIS). The Bright Spots programme, used by over 50 local authorities in England and Wales, uses to online surveys to provide an opportunity for children and young people to share their experiences of care and how they feel about their lives. CELCIS is asking local authorities to express their interest in participating in the pilot of this project, starting later this year.

Mental Health

[Projects to explore adolescent mental health following funding announcement](#)

A number of projects to better understand the mental health and wellbeing of young people across the UK are to share £24m of investment, UK Research and Innovation has announced. The seven funded projects across the UK are intended to generate a new understanding of the developing mind to enable young people to flourish, with a University of Edinburgh project focusing on eating disorders in young people.

Other Health and Social Care

[Care procurement best practice guidance published](#)

Best practice guidance for public bodies on procurement of care and support services from external suppliers has been published by the Scottish Government. The guidance, originally published in March 2016, has been updated to reflect changes that have occurred as a result of the UK’s formal exit from the EU. It has



been developed to support all staff involved in the procurement of these services, as well as regulators and those responsible for auditing the commissioning of services.

[Personal assistants to receive £500 payment](#)

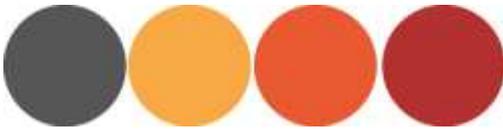
An online portal has been launched for more than 10,000 Personal Assistants to ensure they receive the £500 bonus payment for health and social care workers. The Personal Assistant workforce, who are employed directly by disabled people for whom they provide support to enable them to live independently, are the last remaining group to receive the bonus, which was announced in November 2020.

[Package of support for staff wellbeing announced](#)

An £8m package of funding to support the wellbeing of health and social care staff has been announced by the Scottish Government. Priority areas will include the ongoing development of the National Wellbeing Hub, National Wellbeing Helpline, and psychological interventions for staff, while more practical support like rest spaces will also be provided. Coaching for Wellbeing, digital apps and the Workforce Specialist Service for regulated staff will also be provided, alongside more practical support, such as rest spaces.

[New SSSC fitness to practise hearings process in place](#)

The new Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) fitness to practise hearings process is now in place. The SSSC will now only hold a hearing if a worker disagrees with the outcome of an investigation and asks for one. This is designed to focus resources on improving the process and support available for people involved.



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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