



[Covid-19 - General](#)

[Carers](#)

[Disabilities](#)

[Early Learning and  
Childcare](#)

[Justice](#)

[Looked After and  
Accommodated Children](#)

[Play](#)

[Other Health and Social  
Care](#)

## Covid-19 - General

### [First Minister confirms move to Level 0 on Monday 19 July](#)

Scotland will move to Level 0 Covid-19 restrictions on Monday 19 July, the First Minister Nicola Sturgeon has confirmed. In Level 0, physical distancing will reduce to one metre in all indoor and outdoor public settings, informal social gatherings of up to 15 people from 15 households will be permitted outdoors without physical distancing, and gatherings of up to 10 people from four households will be permitted in all indoor public settings with one metre physical distancing. The First Minister urged people to adhere to protective measures and sensible precautions to help create conditions that allow Scotland to move beyond Level 0 on 9 August. Employers are asked to continue to support home working where possible until the move beyond Level 0.

### [Covid-19 vaccines 'highly effective' in clinical risk groups, study finds](#)

Covid-19 vaccines used in the UK are “highly effective” at preventing symptomatic disease among clinical risk groups, according to a study by Public Health England. The study included more than one million people in at risk groups and found overall vaccine effectiveness against symptomatic disease in risk groups is approximately 60% after one dose of either AstraZeneca or Pfizer-BioNTech, with little variation by age. After two doses, effectiveness with Pfizer-BioNTech is 93% and 78% with AstraZeneca. For those who are immunosuppressed, vaccine effectiveness after a second dose is 74%.



### [Scottish Covid-19 Research Repository launched](#)

A repository of Covid-19 research in Scotland has been launched by Public Health Scotland. The Research Repository, delivered in partnership with several higher education institutions, is fully accessible and searchable, and aims to offer easy access to Scottish Covid-19 research via a single platform.

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

Public Health Scotland has published its latest weekly statistical report on Covid-19. As at 11 July, there have been 316,035 confirmed cases, with 16,318 in the week ending 11 July, a decrease of 29.7% from the previous week.. In the week ending 6 July, there were 475 admissions to hospital with a laboratory confirmed test of Covid-19. The highest number of new admissions were seen amongst those aged 30-39 years and 70-79 years.

## **Carers**

### [Updated guidance on Carers Act published](#)

The Scottish Government has published updated statutory guidance for local authorities, health boards and integration authorities on effective implementation of the provisions of the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016. The guidance has been updated to: reflect new legislation on timescales for adult carer support plans and young carer statements for carers of terminally ill people; incorporate guidance on local eligibility criteria for carer support previously published separately; integrate illustrative examples on waiving of charges and replacement care; and to include a checklist on content for local carer strategies.

### [Research on experience of unpaid carers in Scotland during Covid-19](#)

Carers Trust Scotland has released research on the experience of unpaid carers and carer service support workers during the pandemic. Of the 500 participants, 90% stated they were spending more time caring and 82% had no respite since the beginning of the pandemic. Meanwhile, 76% of carer support workers found their workload increased, while others highlighted the emotionally demanding nature of their work and the challenge of taking calls in a home working environment. The report makes a number of recommendations, including a remobilisation plan for care services, clear communication between care services and commissioning bodies, transparency from local authorities on Carers Act funding, and support for staff.

## **Disabilities**

### [SCLD highlights concerns among parents of children with learning disabilities](#)

The parents of children and young people with learning disabilities have “significant” fear and confusion about the easing of Covid-19 restrictions and levels of community transmission, according to the Scottish Commission for People with Learning



Disabilities (SCLD). In a position statement, the SCLD called for several actions, including “clearer and fully accessible messaging” about the rationale for the current strategy, and “urgent clarification” on the status of people with learning disabilities within any booster roll-out and on the vaccination of children and young people.

### [New BSL language and communication guide for families and professionals](#)

A new British Sign Language (BSL) language and communication guide for families and for professionals has been launched by the National Deaf Children’s Society (NDCS). The purpose of the guide is to support parents of deaf children in Scotland who have chosen BSL as the language and communication option for their child, setting out key tips and resources, what support should be available in Scotland, and how the National Deaf Children’s Society can help. Two versions of the resource have been highlighted by the ALLIANCE: one for families and one for professionals.

## **Early Learning and Childcare**

### [New statutory ELC guidance for education authorities](#)

The Scottish Government has published new statutory guidance for education authorities to support them in exercising their functions in relation to the delivery of early learning and childcare (ELC). Applying from 1 August, the guidance is focused on provisions set out in Part 6 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 and is issued to authorities carrying out their statutory functions in relation to securing funded ELC entitlement for eligible children in their area. It is also intended to assist those involved in the delivery of ELC, including providers in the private, third and childminding sectors, community planning partners, and agencies across all sectors which support the sector.

## **Justice**

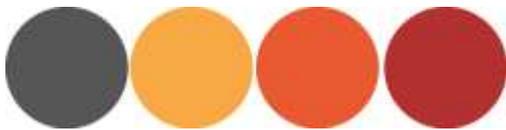
### [CYCJ publishes conflict with the law supplement to transitions framework](#)

The Children and Young People’s Centre for Justice (CYCJ) has co-produced a supplement to the Scottish Transitions Forum’s Principles of Good Transitions 3. The principles provide a framework for the continual improvement of support for children and young people with additional support needs between the ages of 14 and 25 who are making the transition to young adult life. The supplement was created following discussion in the Improving Life Chances Implementation Group and is aimed at all settings and individuals working with children and young people who are in conflict with the law or at risk of this.

## **Looked After and Accommodated Children**

### [Briefing on Lifelong Links approach published](#)

A briefing on a new approach to supporting children and young people who are looked after away from their parents and families has been published by the Centre for excellence for Children’s Care and Protection (CELCIS). The Lifelong Links



approach identifies and engages with relatives and other supportive adults, bringing them together in a family group conference to make a support plan. The approach is being trialled in five local authorities, three of whom are taking part in the Scottish Evaluation. This new briefing reflects on some concerns around the impact of the pandemic on Lifelong Links, provides an update on evaluation activities and outline what is hoped to achieve between now and the evaluation ending in March 2023.

#### [CELCIS founding Director to step down to focus on new role](#)

Jennifer Davidson is to step down as executive director of CELCIS from 1 August to focus on her new role. Ms Davidson was a founding director of CELCIS and director of its predecessor the Scottish Institute for Residential Child Care. She will continue her work with the Institute for Inspiring Children's Futures at the University of Strathclyde on a permanent basis. Jennifer Davidson had been on secondment with Inspiring Children's Futures as its executive director since 1 April 2020.

#### [Campaign group complains to ICO regarding market study correspondence](#)

A campaign group has submitted a complaint to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) in relation to the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) market study on children's social care provision. According to Article 39, the CMA has refused to release correspondence that took place prior to the study's launch with a number of public bodies, including the Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland.

#### [Ofsted highlights scarce supply of secure care placements \(England\)](#)

A scarce supply of secure care placements in England has been highlighted by Ofsted. New children's social care data suggests there are 234 places at secure children's homes in England, while 16 homes have closed since 2002. Ofsted highlights that some councils are resorting to placing children in Scottish secure units but notes that "this is not a long-term option, as the Scottish Government has committed to only accept placements from Scottish local authorities".

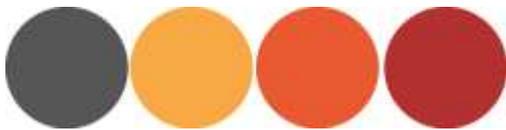
### **Play**

#### [New statement on Covid-19 and play issued by Play Safety Forum](#)

A new statement on Covid-19 and children's play has been issued by the Play Safety Forum. The updated statement outlines key facts about Covid-19 and children's play and argues for a balanced approach to decision-making. It builds on previous statements from the Forum and highlights concerns about children's opportunities for play being reduced.

#### [Evaluation of loose parts play project published](#)

An evaluation of a project to enable loose parts play in communities in Dundee has been published by Play Scotland. The Playful Communities Project, a partnership with ScrapAntics, involved outreach community play sessions and supported family play sessions to encourage particularly vulnerable families to play outside, spend



quality time together and increase adult and child confidence in outdoor play. According to the evaluation report, the project “provided a support network for families, putting children’s voices at the forefront, and offered children equal opportunity to socialise and engage in creative, child led play in a safe space”.

## **Other Health and Social Care**

### [Next stage of developing second National Action Plan for Human Rights confirmed](#)

Plans for the next stage of work to develop a second National Action Plan for Human Rights (SNAP 2) have been set out by the Scottish Human Rights Commission (SHRC). Work has been taking place to develop detailed plans and proposal for SNAP 2 since late 2017, with a business case for resources and implementation developed in partnership with and approved by Scottish Ministers in May 2021 following a delay due to Covid-19. The following steps will now take place:

- Scottish Government participation at senior level in a new SNAP 2 Leadership Panel to be established in autumn 2021.
- Initial resourcing of a Secretariat Lead, to be hosted by the SHRC, as the first step in establishing a full independent SNAP 2 Secretariat.
- Refining, prioritising and identifying resources to support SNAP 2 actions.

### [Updated guidance on regulating managers](#)

The Care Inspectorate and Scottish Social Services Council have updated their guidance on the regulation of managers of registered services. New managers applying to become the Registered Manager with the Care Inspectorate are required to already hold a level seven practitioner qualification. This replaces the guidance issued in April this year that new managers must hold a level nine manager qualification. Providers of existing services, who are proposing to appoint a new manager, must ensure the person to be appointed holds a relevant practitioner level qualification as well as having the skills and experience to manage the service.

### [Care Inspectorate Q1 Statistical Summary Report published](#)

The Care Inspectorate Statistical Summary Report for Quarter 1 of 2020/21 has now been released. This presents data on the number of registered care services, new registrations and cancellations, complaints about care services and grades all by care service type and or service sector. This is updated on a quarterly basis.

### [Iriss strategy published](#)

Iriss has published its strategic priorities for 2021-2024. Titled ‘Better lives for people, workers and communities’, the strategy outlines a number of focus areas including continuing to develop and share knowledge for practice and policy making in social work and social care. Iriss will also review the effectiveness of this core work. There are plans to start offering innovation and systems change support to people, workers and organisations.



### [Rediscover Summer guidance launched by UK Government](#)

Guidance to promote a range of summer activities and opportunities for families, children and young people has been launched by the UK Government. The Rediscover Summer campaign follows a Save the Children survey which highlighted the pandemic's negative impact on children playing sport and on their wellbeing.

### [Almost 20% of keyworker children living in poverty in Scotland, according to TUC](#)

Almost 20% of children of keyworkers in Scotland are living in poverty, according to research undertaken for the Trades Union Congress (TUC). The study, conducted by Landman Economics, found that over a million children of keyworkers are living in poverty across the UK. According to the TUC, the main reasons for this are low pay and insecure hours, factors often linked to occupations such as care workers. The TUC has called for a rise in the minimum wage, better funding for public sector pay and cancellation of the £20 cut to Universal Credit.

### [Willie Rennie steps down as Lib Dem leader](#)

Willie Rennie has announced that he is stepping down as leader of the Scottish Lib Dems. He said it was time for a "fresh face" to lead the party and will continue as an MSP for North East Fife. With only sitting MSPs able to stand for leader, Alex Cole-Hamilton, Beatrice Wishart and Liam McArthur are the only potential candidates.

#### **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, current research and policy development. We use a variety of sources, 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. It should also be noted that the Care Inspectorate has no liability in respect of the content of external websites which may be signposted on this site.