



[Covid-19 - General](#)

[Early Learning and  
Childcare](#)

[Mental Health](#)

[Other Health and Social  
Care](#)

[Other](#)

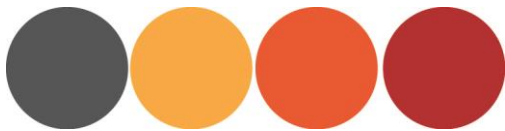
## Covid-19 - General

### [Vaccinated workers can leave self-isolation in exceptional circumstances](#)

Fully vaccinated critical workers will be able to leave self-isolation in exceptional circumstances under new plans to prevent serious disruption to vital public services, the UK Government has announced. Workers will otherwise need to continue to self-isolate as directed by Test & Trace and will need to undertake a PCR test followed by daily lateral flow tests.

### [Vaccination of children and young people](#)

A statement on Covid-19 vaccination of children and young people aged 12-17 has been published by the JCVI. They currently do not advise routine universal vaccination of children and young people, however a lead-in time is recommended to offer vaccination to those who are three months from their 18th birthday. Children aged 12 years and over with specific underlying health conditions that put them at risk of serious Covid-19 should be offered vaccination.



### [Commission report on impact of pandemic](#)

The Social Mobility Commission has published its 'State of the nation report 2021', focusing on the impact of the pandemic and calling for changes to child welfare benefits and investment in education to put disadvantaged children and young people at centre stage of the UK Government's recovery plan. The Commission, an independent body which advises the UK government, proposes removing the two-child limit in Universal Credit and child tax credit, so larger families are not penalised. It also suggests raising each child payment covered by Universal Credit by at least £10 per week to help the poorest families and increasing child benefit by the same amount.

### **Early Learning and Childcare**

#### [Closures of early years settings as a result of Covid-19](#)

A publication by the Education Policy Institute (EPI) and the National Day Nurseries Association (NDNA) on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on smaller early years settings reportedly shows that up to four in ten settings closed as a result of rising Covid rates and lack of demand from families for places. Other issues being faced by early years settings are workforce instability and unpredictability around attendance levels.

### **Mental Health**

#### [Principles for participation and engagement](#)

The Children and Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing Joint Delivery Board has published its principles for participation and engagement with children and young people. The principles are underpinned by Article 12 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and the commitment of The Promise, with six principles:

- Children and young people, are safe and supported when engaging with the Board and/or its subgroups
- Engagement is structured to enable children and young people to participate
- Lifespan of participation is clear, appropriate for children and young people taking part and the engagement mechanism chosen
- Youth engagement is meaningful, informing the work of the board and providing a positive experience for participating children and young people
- We will involve a diverse group of children and young people, striving to include marginalised and hard to reach voices
- We are transparent and accountability through our processes and decision making



## **Other Health and Social Care**

### [Guidance on Shared Lives Schemes](#)

The Scottish Government has published guidance for a supported person or their carer, who employs staff or a service in adult social care or children's residential services. This guidance is intended for individuals who work as a member of the shared lives scheme, and a guidance letter will be issued to all Shared Lives carers by their Shared Lives scheme managers

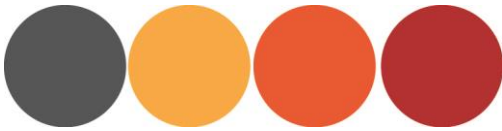
## **Other**

### [Call for extension of uplift to Universal Credit](#)

The cross-party chairs and conveners of the relevant committees in each of the UK's parliaments have written a joint letter calling on the UK Government to extend the £20 uplift to Universal Credit. The letter points to Joseph Rowntree Foundation estimates that the uplift's removal would force 500,000 people – including 200,000 children – into poverty.

### [Podcast on early years](#)

Nursery World reports the launch of a new podcast entitled 'The 1001 Critical Days' hosted by Andrea Leadsom MP, which will feature stories of parents who have given birth during lockdown along with interviews with leading practitioners and politicians. The podcast will feature people who have been part of the Early Years Healthy Development Review's journey and each episode explores different aspects of the early years.

**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.