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## Covid-19 - General

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

Public Health Scotland has published its weekly data on Covid-19 across Scotland. As at 25 July, there had been 341,015 confirmed cases, with 9,047 of these recorded in the week ending 25 July 2021, a decrease of 35.1% from the previous week. In the week ending 20 July, there were 450 admissions to hospital with a laboratory confirmed test of Covid-19. The highest number of new admissions were seen amongst those aged 40-59 years. The number of new admissions to Intensive Care Units for confirmed Covid-19 patients increased from 44 in the week ending 17 July 2021 to 50 in the week ending 24 July 2021.

[First Minister urges younger age groups and pregnant women to get vaccinated](#)

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon has urged younger age groups and pregnant women to take up an offer of Covid-19 vaccination. The First Minister said approximately 70% of adults have now had both doses of the vaccine and that work is ongoing to increase the figures among younger age groups. Ms Sturgeon is due to deliver a statement on 3 August updating members on whether the Scottish Government would proceed with plans to further ease restrictions on 9 August.



### [Report explores the experience of vulnerable children and parents during pandemic](#)

A report on the lived experience of children, young people and parents in vulnerable groups during the Covid-19 pandemic has been published by the Scottish Government. The report presents the findings from qualitative research conducted with 247 participants, 44 children, 90 young people and 113 parents. All participants reported a decline in their mental wellbeing over the course of the pandemic, particularly during the two lockdown periods. Most children and young people found home learning very challenging. Parents reported a substantial decline in mental wellbeing, with many saying they had no respite from childcare responsibilities during the period of school and early learning and childcare closures.

### [Funding for carers and disabled people to address isolation and loneliness](#)

Projects supporting carers and disabled people are among initiatives to share £1m to tackle loneliness and isolation as a result of the pandemic, the Scottish Government has announced. The initial funding comes as part of the £10m commitment to support a new five-year social isolation and loneliness plan. Organisations to receive funding include Intercultural Youth Scotland and Youthlink Scotland.

## **Child Protection**

### [CELCIS report uses social work data to explore Covid impact on needs and services](#)

A report using local social work data to understand the impact of Covid-19 in relation to vulnerable children's needs and services has been published by the Centre for Excellence for Children's Care and Protection (CELCIS). The report, prepared for the Scottish Government Children and Families Collective Leadership Group, notes that an apparent increase in need and demand – reflected by increases in child protection referrals and inter-agency referral discussions – is not reflected in increased activity in later child protection stages. Among a number of asks of national partners are calls for “continued and reinvigorated focus” on GIRFEC, increased funding for preventative, family-centred services, and greater recognition of the relationship-based practice demonstrated by local authority social work.

### [Barnardo's Chief Executive to step down](#)

Barnardo's Chief Executive Javed Khan has announced that he is to step down after seven years in the role. Corporate Director of Children's Services Operations Lynn Perry will be Acting CEO

### [Funding to tackle gender-based violence](#)

The Scottish Government has announced £5m funding for frontline services that help women and girls affected by gender-based violence. The funding is aimed at cutting waiting lists for rape crisis centres and domestic abuse services, with £4.5m to be split between Scottish Women's Aid and Rape Crisis Scotland, and a total of £500,000 allocated to 12 other specialist support services and organisations.



### [Briefing note for social workers on attendance options at Children's Hearings](#)

A new briefing sheet for social workers in relation to attendance options at a Children's Hearing has been published by the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA). The note is designed to help social workers understand recent changes to how children, relevant persons and others can attend Hearings, and to help social workers support families in understanding them.

## **Disability**

### [Guide Dogs offering free iPad or iPhone to children with visual impairments](#)

A charity is offering free assistive technology for children with visual impairment for a limited period. Guide Dogs has launched Tech for All, offering a free Apple iPad or iPhone to children and young people (aged 3-18) with visual impairments, to use outside of school.

### [Pilot Child Disability Payment scheme opens](#)

A pilot scheme for the Child Disability Payment has opened for applications from families in Dundee City, Perth and Kinross and Western Isles council areas. The payment will replace the UK Government's Disability Living Allowance (DLA) for children and it will be administered by Social Security Scotland. Those already receiving DLA will not need to apply for the payment because their cases will be transferred in the future. A nationwide rollout is planned for autumn.

## **Early Learning and Childcare**

### [Refreshed Recognition of Prior Learning in ELC tool published](#)

The Scottish Government has refreshed the Recognition of Prior Learning tool for those wishing to work in Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) in Scotland. The tool is designed to illustrate how prior learning, and experiences or qualifications - formal or informal, life or work based - can be used to help obtain ELC qualifications. The Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework Partnership is hosting a [free workshop](#) introducing learners to RPL on Tuesday 14 September.

### [Coram Family and Childcare publishes 21<sup>st</sup> annual UK childcare survey](#)

Coram Family and Childcare has published its latest annual UK survey. The survey shows the early impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on childcare across the UK and suggests that prices in England and Scotland have risen above inflation. The survey found that there has been an increase in childcare sufficiency for some groups in Scotland, but a decrease in whether there are enough places for the free ELC entitlement. The report sets out a number of suggested actions for governments across the UK, including a funding review for free entitlements to make sure that funding levels are sufficient to support high quality ELC and address issues resulting from Covid-19.



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

The Scottish Government has published its latest Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) Covid-19 Update. The July edition features updates in relation to Covid-19 guidance, updated ELC statutory guidance, delivery of 1,140 hours coming into effect in August and workforce and professional learning.

### **Health**

#### [Young Patients Family Fund launched by Scottish Government](#)

A fund to help families with the costs of visiting and providing essential care for their children in hospital has been launched by the Scottish Government. The Young Patients Family Fund will provide support for expenses such as travel, food and overnight accommodation. An initial investment of £5m has been set aside for the fund, although actual spend will depend on demand.

### **Justice**

#### [Journey through Justice resource for young people launched by CYCJ and Iriss](#)

A guide to support children and young people who have been charged by the police has been launched by the Children and Young People's Centre for Justice (CYCJ) and Iriss. Devised by young people from a number of settings, Journey through Justice is an interactive resource to help children and young people through the justice system following being charged by the police.

#### [Good practice resource to support care experienced children in police custody](#)

A new good practice resource to support solicitors and practitioners when representing care experienced children in police custody has been published by the CYCJ. The guide also includes advice for children and young people to help them know what their rights are, and what they are entitled to, in police custody. This guide was co-produced with care/justice experienced young people.

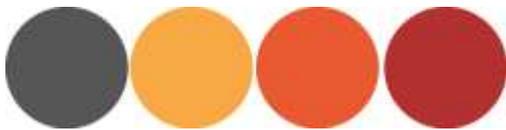
#### [Child-friendly version of bail and remand report published](#)

The CYCJ has also published a child-friendly version of its report on the use and impact of bail and remand with children in Scotland. The aim of the resource is to give children and young people an understanding of the issues around how bail and remand is done in Scotland. The CYCJ is also working on a short animation to support understanding around issues relating to bail and remand in Scotland.

### **Looked After and Accommodated Children**

#### [New guidance published to support legislation to help siblings in care stay together](#)

The Scottish Government has published national practice guidance to support implementation of legislation to help siblings in care stay together. Part 13 of the



Children (Scotland) Act 2020 and the Looked After Children (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2021 mean local authorities have a duty to ensure siblings are supported to stay together, where appropriate. Where it is not appropriate for brothers and sisters to live together, steps should be taken to help them stay in regular touch with each other and to nurture their relationships. The guidance highlights creative solutions and examples of practice already underway in Scotland where practitioners are working to ensure siblings are supported to maintain positive and meaningful relationships with each other, wherever they live.

#### [UK Government launches new national adoption strategy \(England\)](#)

A new national adoption strategy has been launched by the UK Government. Achieving Excellence Everywhere includes plans to boost recruitment, increase training for front line staff, improve approval processes and provide funding for recruitment campaigns. The strategy is supported by £48m investment.

#### **Other Health and Social Care**

#### [SASW report explores racism in Scottish social work](#)

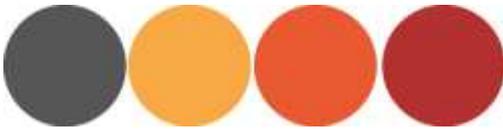
A report exploring racism in Scottish social work has been published by the Scottish Association of Social Work (SASW). The publication is based upon the results of a survey which ran towards the end of 2020 and an anti-racism roundtable held in March 2021. It suggests: racism exists within social work in Scotland, in both employment and education settings, from colleagues, managers and people who use services; the impact of racism on social workers from BAME backgrounds is significant; when racism is reported it is rarely dealt with in a satisfactory way; the racism experienced is harmful both to individuals and to the profession.

#### [Children and young people set asks for the Scottish Government](#)

The Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland has published a report setting out the views and experiences of children and young people during the pandemic, and their asks of the Scottish Government. The Commissioner's office supported A Place in Childhood (APiC) to work with 25 Young Consultants, exploring their views and experiences of the second lockdown. A new report collects APiC's findings and highlights the Young Consultants' 34 Asks to the Scottish Government for meaningful change.

#### [Latest Involve newsletter published by Care Inspectorate](#)

The latest Involve newsletter has been published by the Care Inspectorate. This edition includes an introduction to our new involvement and equalities team manager, news from our inspection volunteers and updates from the various projects that our volunteers have been involved in.



## 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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