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## **Covid-19 - General**

### [Public inquiry into pandemic](#)

The Scottish Government has published a paper setting out the draft aims and principles of an independent public inquiry into the handling of the Covid-19 pandemic in Scotland. The proposed inquiry would be established by the end of the year, to scrutinise decisions taken in the course of this pandemic, and learn lessons for future pandemics.

### [Vaccination certification](#)

The Scottish Government has published proposals for Coronavirus vaccination certificates, which would be required to enter nightclubs, unseated indoor live events with over 500 people, unseated outdoor live events with over 4,000 people, and any event with over 10,000 people in attendance. There are no plans to introduce this to the wider hospitality industry and children and adults ineligible for vaccination will be exempt. From Friday 3 September, people will be able to download a PDF copy of their certificate with a QR code for use domestically or internationally.



### [Advice on third vaccine dose](#)

The UK Government's Department of Health and Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) has advised that a third vaccine dose should be offered to people aged 12 years old and over with severe immunosuppression. This group includes those with blood cancer, advanced HIV and recent organ or stem-cell transplants. The UK Government has accepted the recommendations and confirmed the NHS will contact these individuals to discuss their needs and arrange an appointment where clinically appropriate.

### **Child Protection**

#### [Revised guidance to support care and protection of children](#)

The Scottish Government has published revised National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2021. This non-statutory Guidance describes the responsibilities and expectations for all involved in protecting children in Scotland and replaces the 2014 version. It outlines how statutory and non-government agencies should work together with parents, families and communities to prevent harm and to protect children from abuse and neglect. The Care Inspectorate welcomes the revised guidance and recognises that implementation takes time and the degree of change required in local areas will vary across Scotland, so our scrutiny will take account of the stage children's services partnerships are at in implementing the guidance.

Also published have been the [consultation report](#), and [National Guidance For Child Protection Committees Undertaking Learning Reviews](#).

### **Early Learning and Childcare**

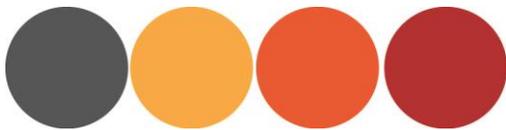
#### [Health check of the childcare sector](#)

The Scottish Government, in response to an inspired question, has published the Financial Sustainability Health Check of the Childcare Sector in Scotland. A supporting [Analysis & Evidence paper](#) has also been published. The exercise collected evidence on the sustainability of the childcare sector, in particular in light of the impacts of the pandemic. Updated information has also been collected from local authorities on the sustainable rates they have set for providers in the private, third and childminding sectors to delivery funded early learning and childcare.

### **Education**

#### [Fund to build capacity for creativity across leadership](#)

Education Scotland has invited local authorities to apply to the Creative Learning Network (CLN) Fund to provide support to build capacity for creativity across leadership, learning, teaching, assessment and achievement, and to support more creative and innovative approaches to curriculum design. This year, the fund is



principally concerned with using creative approaches to address the negative impacts the pandemic has had on learners' mental health and wellbeing.

### [Reform of SQA and Education Scotland](#)

The Scottish Government has published information on the remit of Ken Muir, the advisor to the government on the reform of the SQA and Education Scotland. The advisor will establish a [supporting expert panel](#), for which the draft terms of reference have been published. A [practitioner and stakeholder](#) advisory group will also be set up and its draft terms of reference have been published.

## **Justice**

### [Guidance on the age of criminal responsibility](#)

The Scottish Government has published statutory guidance in accordance with the Age of Criminal Responsibility (Scotland) Act 2019. It contains information to support police, local authorities and others with functions related to investigative interviews involving children under the age of 12. Statutory guidance has also been released containing information for the Police Service of Scotland and local authorities in relation to the use of the power conferred under the act to take a child under the age of 12 to a [place of safety](#).

## **Other Health and Social Care**

### [Consultation on a National Care Service](#)

The Scottish Government has published a consultation on A National Care Service for Scotland, proposing that the National Care Service will define the strategic direction and quality standards for community health and social care in Scotland. The proposals will also take forward the recommendations of the Independent Review of Adult Social Care around:

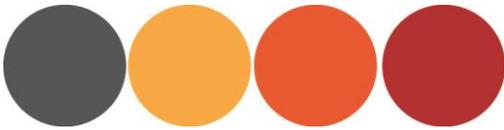
- ensuring that care is person-centred and human rights based
- providing greater recognition and support for unpaid carers
- improving conditions for the workforce
- commissioning for public good
- more effective approaches to scrutiny and improvement of social care services

The consultation will run until 2 November 2021.

## **Workforce**

### [Workforce data report](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has published their workforce data for 2020. Key points from the report include:



- The size of the workforce has increased to 209,690, a rise of 1.6% since 2019
- The social service workforce makes up approximately 8.0% of all Scottish employment
- The whole time equivalent (WTE) measure of the workforce is 159,260, an increase of 2.6% since 2019
- The three largest sub-sectors are housing support/care at home, care homes for adults and day care of children; together these account for almost 79% of the workforce

### **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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