



Covid-19 - General

[Grace period for introduction of vaccine passport](#)

Scotland's vaccine passport system will not be enforced until 18 October, the First Minister has confirmed. The scheme comes into force at 05:00 on Friday but a "grace period" will be introduced to give venues two-and-a-half weeks to test and adapt the new scheme in their own premises before the measures are legally enforced. Nicola Sturgeon also [announced](#) a £25m package to improve ventilation and reduce the risk of COVID transmission in high-risk settings.

[Autumn and winter vaccination strategy published](#)

The Scottish Government has published a strategy outlining its progress on COVID vaccinations and detailing plans for COVID and seasonal influenza vaccinations in autumn and winter 2021-22. The strategy notes that invitations for COVID booster injections were now being issued to people aged 70 and over and those aged 16 and over who are at highest clinical risk.

- All 12-15 year olds who have not yet received their vaccination have been [sent a letter](#) offering an appointment. Drop-in clinics had been available to this age group and now scheduled appointments are being issued to all eligible.

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Child Protection

[Latest Child Abuse Inquiry case study findings published](#)

Lady Smith has published her findings into the Scottish Government's response between August 2002 and December 2014 to Petition PE535, and other key issues raised by adult survivors of childhood abuse experienced in care in Scotland. The petition was presented to the Scottish Parliament's Public Petitions Committee by abuse survivor Chris Daly, calling for an inquiry into past institutional child abuse and for apologies on behalf of the state religious orders that had run institutions. Lady Smith concludes the delay of more than 13 years in setting up a public inquiry was "woeful and wholly avoidable".

- In a statement reported by the [BBC](#), Deputy First Minister John Swinney said the Scottish Government "apologises unreservedly that it did not respond more appropriately and sooner to the concerns of survivors of abuse in care who called for a public inquiry".

[Child Abuse Inquiry boarding school hearings to resume on 6 October](#)

The Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry is to recommence hearings examining the abuse of children in boarding schools on 6 October. The hearings will take place at the Inquiry's new premises at Mint House, Edinburgh, and relate to Gordonstoun, Queen Victoria, Keil, Fettes and Merchiston Castle after evidence was taken earlier in the year relating to Loretto and Morrison's Academy.

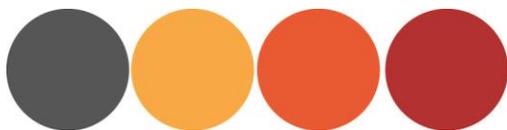
- The latest Inquiry [newsletter](#) has been published, including a note of plans to begin the case study into the abuse of children in foster care in spring 2022.

[Child Interview Model to be rolled out across Scotland](#)

The Scottish Child Interview Model is to be rolled out across the country, the Scottish Government has confirmed. The model, backed by funding of £2m, aims to protect children and reduce stress when recounting their experiences through pre-recorded investigative interviews, conducted jointly by police officers and social work staff. The core principles are embedded in a new intensive training course at graduate diploma level for police and social work interviewers run at the Police Scotland College in Fife.

[SCRA Official Statistics 2020/21 published](#)

The Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA) has published its Official Statistics for 2020/21. The statistics show that over the course of the year, 9,665 children and young people in Scotland were referred to the Children's Reporter, representing 1.1% of all children and young people in Scotland. The majority of children and young people (8,013) were referred due to concerns about their welfare. In 2020/21, 16,248 Children's Hearings were held for 8,977 children and young people, with the majority held virtually due to the pandemic and restrictions.



Early Learning and Childcare

[Letter to childcare providers in response to close contact policy concerns](#)

The Scottish Government has written to childcare providers to address concerns regarding the current policy on close contacts aged under five. The Advisory Sub-Group on Education and Children's Issues reviewed the policy through a 'four harms' lens and agreed to maintain the current advice on close contacts aged under five in childcare settings, emphasising that children of any age who display symptoms should not attend childcare settings but should self-isolate and take a PCR test.

[SCMA update on under fives, testing and self-isolation](#)

The Scottish Childminding Association has published an update on its position in relation to testing and self-isolation for under fives following discussions with the Scottish Government. The SCMA have been given clarity that childminders are not required to accept untested under fives if they decide not to do so, provided they perform a risk assessment in line with Childminder Services Guidance.

[Tell us what you think of our quality framework for ELC services](#)

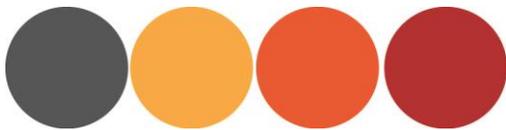
The Care Inspectorate published its quality framework for daycare of children, childminding and school aged childcare to the sector in June 2021. At that time we gave our commitment to testing and consulting before final implementation. We hope you have had some time to become familiar with the framework and we would like to find out how you have found using it. Please complete the survey by 8 October 2021.

[Event on intergenerational projects between care home and early years](#)

An event on intergenerational projects between care homes and early years settings is to be hosted by Generations Working Together. The charity will be joined by Play Scotland and Apples and Honey Nightingale (the first shared setting of a care home and an early years centre in the UK) as they share knowledge and practical ideas. The event takes place on 7 October.

[Research explores impact of childminding on child, parent and family outcomes](#)

A report presenting the findings of a qualitative research study the impact of childminding services has been published by the Scottish Government. The research is based on qualitative in-depth interviews with childminders and parents, and aims to develop the evidence base on the impact of childminding services on child, parent and carer, and family outcomes. The report concludes that parents who use childminders, and childminders themselves, have the same clear view of what good quality childminding looks like. Children benefit from the "homely setting" and the low ratio of children to care-givers, while parents and families benefit from the flexibility of the service and the frequent communication with settings.



Education

[Views sought on SQA and Education Scotland reform](#)

A consultation on plans to reform Education Scotland and replace the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) has been launched by the Scottish Government. The consultation seeks views on plans to substantially reform Education Scotland, including removing inspections from its functions. The consultation has been launched on behalf of Professor Ken Muir, who is acting as an independent adviser to the Scottish Government on the plans. Further [information](#) on the review is available, as is Professor Muir's [remit](#), which notes that the review will take into account "the impact on the wider inspection and scrutiny landscape".

Justice

[Consultation on review of National Strategy for Community Justice](#)

A consultation to inform a review of the National Strategy for Community Justice has been launched by the Scottish Government. The consultation, primarily intended for partners engaged in or with a direct interest in the current strategy, seeks views on the current vision, mission statement and principles, its impact, and future priorities for community justice. The deadline for responses is 8 November.

[Information sheet on restorative processes and children's rights](#)

An information sheet on the practice of restorative processes within the relevant articles of United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) has been published by the Children and Young People's Centre for Justice (CYCJ). The paper notes that as incorporation of the UNCRC into Scots Law progresses, there is a requirement that all practices when working with children in conflict with the law are rights-respecting, including all restorative processes being developed through the delivery of the Restorative Justice Action Plan, to be delivered by 2023.

- Slides and relevant reading from a recent [CYCJ webinar](#) on the relationship between children's rights & restorative justice have also been made available.

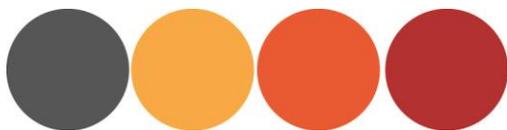
Looked After and Accommodated Children

[Free webinars on sibling rights coming up](#)

A series of free webinars on sibling rights is to be held by Stand Up For Siblings. The three webinars, taking place between 4 and 8 October, will each focus on a different topic, with the final event featuring Fiona Shiels from the Care Inspectorate.

[Latest issue of Scottish Journal of Residential Child Care published](#)

The latest issue of the Scottish Journal of Residential Child Care has been published by the Centre for excellence for Children's Care and Protection (CELCIS). The issue has been published to coincide with the Scottish Institute of Residential Child Care



conference, SIRCC 2021 Online. The theme of this year's conference is 'The Workforce', highlighting the experiences, challenges, and opportunities of those working in residential child care.

Mental Health

[Suicide prevention strategy questionnaire launched](#)

A questionnaire on development of a new suicide prevention strategy has been launched by the Scottish Government and COSLA. The questionnaire follows a joint commitment to develop a new suicide prevention strategy for Scotland and forms one part of the first stage of engagement to take this work forward. In addition to the questionnaire there are online events where people can share their thoughts and ideas, with details and how to attend on the [COSLA website](#). The questionnaire will close on 21 November and a working group will use responses to inform the development of the strategy, to be published in September 2022.

[Continued investment in See Me announced](#)

The national programme to eliminate mental health stigma and discrimination has been awarded £5m of Scottish Government funding for five years. The continuing investment in See Me, which has been announced alongside the launch of their its strategy, With Fairness in Mind, will allow See Me to carry on its work as part of the wider national response to the mental health impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Other Health and Social Care

[New webpage on our role in children and young people's services](#)

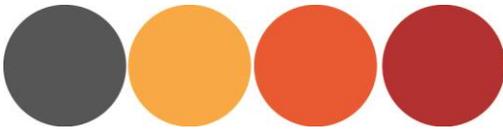
The Care Inspectorate has launched a new webpage to provide information about its role in children and young people's services. The page includes information on our inspection, the Health and Social Care Standards, our young inspection volunteers and a range of other resources and projects.

[Free social work peer support coaching](#)

Iriss has published guidance on accessing free and confidential peer coaching for social workers through the Social Work Professional Support Service. The service gives social workers a space to talk and think through any personal or professional issues they may be facing, with a trained volunteer coach who is also a social worker. Social workers who want to support their peers can also volunteer to become coaches themselves and receive training in coaching and mentoring.

[Experimental statistics on children in families with limited resources published](#)

Experimental statistics on children in families with limited resources have been published by the Scottish Government. The release provides local estimates for the proportion of children in families with limited resources between 2017 and 2019. Nearly a fifth (17%) of children in the sample were in families with combined low



income and material deprivation after housing costs, with children more likely to have limited resources compared to the national average if they lived in single parent households (38%), with disabled adults (28%), or with three or more children (23%). They were also more likely to have limited resources if in households with one adult in employment or in rented accommodation.

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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