



Children and Young People



Covid-19 - General

[Analysis of interviews with people at highest clinical risk](#)

The Scottish Government has published analysis of qualitative interviews conducted in August with people at the highest clinical risk from Covid-19. The 'highest risk list' was previously known as the 'shielding list', and interviews provide insight into how people on this list receiving communications, support and guidance from the Scottish Government, have been feeling.

[Vision for Covid recovery](#)

The Scottish Government has published its Covid Recovery Strategy, setting out their vision for recovery and actions they will take which aim to address the systemic inequalities exacerbated by the Covid, make progress towards a wellbeing economy, and to accelerate inclusive, person-centred public services.

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Child Protection

[All deaths of children and young people in Scotland to be reviewed](#)

Healthcare Improvement Scotland and the Care Inspectorate will be jointly responsible for data collection for a review into all deaths of children and young people in Scotland to age 18, or 26 if receiving continuing care or aftercare at the time of their death. This data will be part of the National Hub, which also brings together representatives from across health and social care, as well as other agencies such as Police Scotland, the Procurator Fiscal and third sector organisations for their specialist advice around child bereavement.

Early Learning and Childcare

[Childminding research](#)

The Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) is highlighting the publication of the first part of Ipsos Mori's research on childminding under the Childminding Action Plan. The 'Perceptions of the Impact of Childminding Services on Child, Parent and Family Outcomes', intends to strengthen the evidence base and raise wider awareness with parents and carers about the benefits of childminding.

[Financial sustainability of school age childcare sector](#)

A snapshot of the financial sustainability of the school age childcare sector for autumn 2021 has been published by the Scottish Out of School Care Network (SOSCN). The results of a survey conducted in August/September 2021 reportedly show a drop in children registered, and without additional financial help just under half of respondents believe that their service(s) will have to close down completely, or begin the process of doing so by the end of this year.

[Progress report on early learning and childcare](#)

The Improvement Service has published an Early Learning & Childcare (ELC) progress report. Key messages include:

- data returned by local authorities indicates that 90,890 children were accessing funded ELC as of the end of August 2021
- the local authority ELC workforce is reported to have increased by 7,942 FTE since academic year 2016/17, including an increase of 757 FTE since April 2021
- funded providers in the private and voluntary sectors and childminders provide 32% of all funded provision



Education

[Covid-19 education recovery](#)

The Scottish Government has published 'Coronavirus (COVID-19) education recovery: key actions and next steps'. The plan includes support for learners, access to in-school mental health and wellbeing support, additional teachers and support staff, expanded funded early learning and childcare and investment to tackle the attainment gap.

Mental Health

[Children and young people with eating disorders workshops](#)

NHS Education for Scotland has published a summary of workshops for children and young people with eating disorders in 2021. The seminars were in response to the high number of children and young people presenting with eating disorders and the request from the Scottish Government to provide support and learning to staff working in acute paediatric setting to help them to better support these children and young people and their families.

[Call for renewed focus on expanded prevention and early intervention services](#)

Following the publication of figures from Public Health Scotland on Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) waiting times, and figures on diagnoses of self-harming issues, the Scottish Children's Services Coalition (SCSC) are calling for "a renewed focus on expanded prevention and early intervention services, reducing the need for referral to costly specialist CAMHS." It has also called for greater partnership working between the public, private and third sectors as well as greater awareness of the services on offer, especially those at a community level.

Other Health and Social Care

[Call for reversal of Universal Credit cut](#)

The First Ministers of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have jointly written to Boris Johnson to demand the decision to withdraw the £20 uplift to Universal Credit be reversed. The letter urges the Prime Minister to consider the "moral, social and economic harms" of the cut, warning it takes place at a time when household budgets are under significant strain due to increased costs to food and energy, rising inflation, the end of the furlough scheme and an increase in National Insurance contributions.

[Evidence on family types at higher risk of child poverty](#)

The Scottish Government has published an overview of the latest evidence on the six priority family types identified as being at a higher risk of child poverty. The publication highlights key issues for lone parent families, minority ethnic families,



families with a disabled adult or child, families with a younger mother, families with a child under one, and families of three or more children.

Other

[Challenge to Scottish Parliament legislation upheld by Supreme Court](#)

The BBC reports that the Supreme Court has unanimously ruled that four provisions in the UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill and two in the European Charter of Local Self-Government (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill were outside the competence of the Scottish Parliament. The UK Government has submitted that the standards set by the bills could be applied to laws passed at Westminster as well as Holyrood - meaning the Scottish courts would have "extensive powers to interpret and scrutinise primary legislation passed by the sovereign UK parliament." Following the Court's ruling, the bills will return to the Scottish Parliament to be reconsidered. The Deputy First Minister John Swinney provided the [Scottish Government's response](#) during a statement in parliament and that they remain committed to incorporating the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) into domestic law to the maximum extent possible.

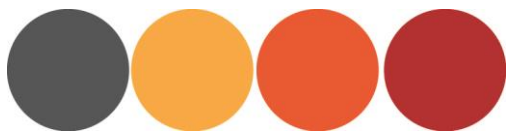
Workforce

[Consultation on Scotland becoming a fair work nation](#)

The Scottish Government has launched a consultation on Scotland becoming a fair work nation. The document, which seeks views on how to ensure fair work remains at the heart of labour market interventions in the context of Covid and Brexit, states that the Scottish Government will continue to work with the social care sector to drive fair work practice in line with the Independent Review of Adult Social Care and the Fair Work Convention's report on Fair Work in Scotland's Social Care Sector. The consultation closes on 23 December.

[Latest SSSC Workforce Skills Report published](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has published its latest Workforce Skills Report. The annual report looks at the current provision of qualifications for the social work, social care and early years workforce, demand for qualifications and how they meet current skills needs. It also looks at barriers to undertaking qualifications and what new skills are needed for the future. The new report highlights that between 2021 and 2025 more than 68,000 registered workers in care homes for adults, care at home and housing support services need to meet a qualification condition. Most of these are met by the SVQ Social Services and Healthcare (SSH) at SCQF level 6, however based on recent average provision around 25,000 people will be able to start the award over the next four years. This gap between demand and supply is the biggest identified in the report.



[SSSC and partners to launch new leadership programme](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has partnered with NHS Education for Scotland and the Royal College of General Practitioners to develop a new leadership programme in the context of health and social care integration. The You as a Collaborative Leader programme will consist of two online workshops split across four half days in November and December. The deadline for applications to the programme is Wednesday 20 October.

[SSSC launches new care careers toolkit](#)

A new care careers toolkit has been launched by the SSSC. The toolkit, aimed at employers, careers advisers and employment support workers, is designed to be used to help others start a career in care and includes new resources on employability, PVG membership and a sector overview, alongside existing tools.

[UK Government launches health and social care leadership review \(England\)](#)

A review into leadership in England's health and social care system has been launched by the UK Government. The review will be led by former Vice Chief of the Defence Staff, General Sir Gordon Messenger, and will report back to Health Secretary Sajid Javid in early 2022.

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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