



Covid-19 - General

[Mitigations to be extended in schools](#)

The Scottish Government has confirmed existing Covid-19 safety mitigations in schools are to remain following advice from clinicians. Secondary school pupils, and staff in primary and secondary schools, will continue to be required to wear face coverings in classrooms and in communal areas. [Advice](#) from the Coronavirus (COVID-19): Advisory Sub-Group on Education and Children's Issues on mitigations in schools has also been published.

[Covid-19 and the LGBT+ population](#)

The Scottish Parliament's Information Centre (SPICe) has published a briefing on the effects of Covid-19 and the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans (LGBT+) population in Scotland. Among other conclusions, the briefing states that moving forward it is important to include diverse LGBT+ voices within COVID-19 recovery plans.

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Early Learning and Childcare

[New legislation for fire and smoke alarms](#)

The Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) has published information for childminders about changes to fire and smoke alarm legislation in Scotland requiring all households to have interlinked fire and smoke alarm systems with adequate carbon monoxide protection by February 2022. The SCMA also states that childminders may be concerned and have questions, and that they are liaising with the **Care Inspectorate** on this issue.

[Returning to the ELC sector](#)

The Scottish Government has issued a letter to all day care of children settings about a new project to invite people with recent experience in early learning and childcare (ELC), but whose Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) registrations have lapsed, to rejoin the sector. The letter makes it clear that this is not a job matching service, but a means for individuals to express an interest in returning to the sector and for employers to access a pool of experienced candidates. Employers will still be required to undertake the necessary pre-employment checks such as PVG applications and references.

[Inequalities in access and take-up in early childhood education and care \(England\)](#)

The Nuffield Foundation has published a report on inequalities around access and take-up of nursery places and childcare provision. The report reviews the evidence on the quality, effectiveness and sustainability of early childhood education and care, and calls for a whole-system review of early childhood education and care, to inform a new strategy designed to deliver quality of provision for children, affordability for parents, improved training and pay for the workforce, and which makes a particular difference to the lives of disadvantaged children.

Looked After and Accommodated Children

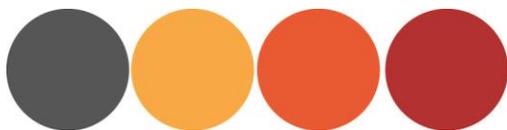
[Conversations with care leavers \(England\)](#)

The Children's Commissioner for England, ahead of National Care Leavers Week, has published a blog on how to learn from care leavers about the care system, and the importance of empowering care leavers in the process of reforming the care system. Following a discussion with care leavers in Plymouth, the themes highlighted in the blog are the lack of trusting relationships, and a sense of dealing with a system that assessed, but did not assist.

Other Health and Social Care

[Academy to train and build the health workforce](#)

The Scottish Government has launched the NHS Scotland Academy to accelerate training and develop Scotland's health workforce. The collaboration between NHS



Golden Jubilee and NHS Education for Scotland will aim to feature a mix of residential, distance and virtual reality learning, with a range of training programmes linked to recruitment, career progression and redesign of roles.

[Progress on calls to action to improve the Children's Hearing System](#)

The Scottish Children's Report Administration (SCRA) has published an update on its work in the past year to meet the 40 Calls to Action from 'Our Hearings, Our Voice'. The report includes updates on the SCRA Hearing room improvement programme, and on new information materials.

[Interim report into children's social care provision](#)

The Competition Markets Authority (CMA) has published its interim report into its market study into children's social care provision. The interim report sets out their initial findings and seeks views on their analysis of market outcomes, emerging conclusions on potential drivers of poor outcomes and early stage thinking on possible recommendations. The interim report states that the evidence seen so far supports concerns about shortages of appropriate places and high prices for children's social care placements. Amongst other recommendations, the interim report suggests that a review should be undertaken of existing regulations that apply to providers of children's social care placements, as existing aspects of the regulatory regime may be "unwittingly creating barriers to providers and local authorities responding effectively to future needs without generating corresponding benefits for the children whose interests they are supposed to protect."

Other

[Intergenerational projects within care settings](#)

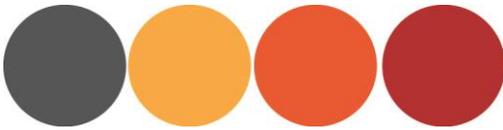
Generations Working Together hosted an intergenerational thematic meeting on 7 October and a recording from the event is available to view. Care home and children and young people services may find the recording useful as the event shares practical ideas around connections between care homes and early years or other settings with children.

[Easy read information about the Redress Scheme for survivors of past child abuse](#)

The Scottish Government has published an Easy Read document about the financial redress scheme for survivors of historical child abuse in care in Scotland. The purpose of the redress scheme is to acknowledge and recognise the harm suffered as a result of that abuse. The redress scheme will offer payments to survivors.

[Analysis of consultation responses on data standards in public sector organisations](#)

The Scottish Government has published an analysis of responses to a consultation on data standards in public sector organisations within Scotland. The report provides an overview of the findings from the consultation activity undertaken and proposes a



Framework for Action for the Scottish Government's Data Standards Team. [A report](#) on supporting the development of a Data Transformation Framework to improve and enable data reuse in the public sector has been published alongside the analysis.

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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