



[Covid-19 - General](#)

[Child Protection](#)

[Disabilities](#)

[Early Learning and
Childcare](#)

[Education](#)

[Justice](#)

[Other Health and Social
Care](#)

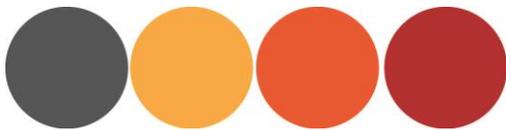
Covid-19 - General

[Update report on community empowerment during pandemic](#)

An update report on how public bodies worked with and empowered communities in response to the Covid-19 pandemic has been published by Audit Scotland. The report suggests that the speed with which some communities were enabled and empowered to work with councils and partners showed how bureaucratic barriers can be quickly removed. It calls for momentum to be maintained and provides case studies from across Scotland to support public bodies and their communities to develop longer-term approaches to supporting and empowering citizens.

[Shielding follow-up survey launched](#)

In June, Public Health Scotland ran a survey on behalf of the Scottish Government to learn more about people's experience of shielding. It has now launched a follow-up survey to understand the longer-term impact and people's experience of changes in the programme over time. The survey closes on 7 November.



Child Protection

[Latest Joint Investigative Interviewing Project newsletter published](#)

The National Joint Investigative Interviewing Project has published its latest newsletter. The October 2021 issue includes an update on the four pilot sites (Lanarkshire, North Strathclyde, Dumfries & Galloway and Glasgow) where will generate learning to inform the introduction of the Scottish Child Interview Model for joint investigative interviewing across the country

[Barnardo's research on organised crime](#)

Organised crime gangs have taken advantage of the pandemic to target vulnerable children, according to research published by Barnardo's. According to the charity, organised criminals moved their exploitation of children into busier public places such as supermarket carparks where they could conduct activities without arousing suspicion. The research also reported that gangs have been preying on vulnerable young people and entrapping them with a promise of 'easy' money, while frontline workers also reported that there had been an increase in children and young people being targeted online.

[SCRA publishes annual report for 2020-21](#)

The Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA) has published its annual report for 2020-21. The report includes audited accounts, as well as a look at some of SCRA's highlights and achievements across the year.

Disabilities

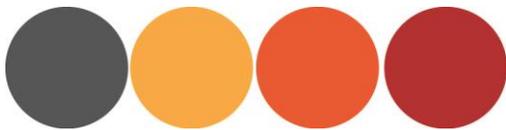
[BSL national plan progress report published](#)

A progress report on the Scottish Government's British Sign Language (BSL) National Plan 2017-23 has been published. The publication has been delayed by a year due to the pandemic, and as such the report concludes that many of the actions "remain wholly or partly incomplete". The Scottish Government notes that it has continued to support BSL during this period and is committed to considering what further work needs to be done as it develops its Covid recovery plans. Progress is reported in family support and early learning and childcare, where information has been translated into BSL and shared through partner organisations.

Early Learning and Childcare

[Scottish Government highlights updated ELC Covid-19 guidance around parent visits](#)

The Scottish Government has issued a letter to all childcare providers to highlight updated Covid-19 guidance to support safe operation. The changes mean that parents and carers may now accompany children onto childcare premises where it is considered beneficial for children's wellbeing, progress, and behaviour. Settings may



also invite parents and carers to attend appropriate outdoor events such as sports days or celebration events, providing relevant Scottish Government guidance on health, physical distancing, and hygiene is followed.

[Ofsted calls for provider-level regulatory oversight powers \(England\)](#)

Regulatory oversight is required at provider level to reflect the influence of early years and social care groups on individual nurseries and children's homes, according to Ofsted. The regulator has published two research reports looking at early years multiple providers and providers that own more than one children's home, and the impact they have on individual settings. According to Ofsted, as it can only inspect individual settings, "we are missing an important part of the picture", and legislation needs to be brought up to date to reflect how the sectors have evolved.

Education

[Materials support children and young people to give views on education reform](#)

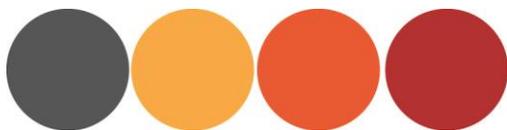
Materials to support children and young people to give their views on education reform have been launched by the Children's Parliament, Scottish Youth Parliament, and Together. Professor Ken Muir is currently leading a consultation on the replacement of the Scottish Qualifications Authority and the reform of Education Scotland. An online survey is available for young people attending secondary school or college to complete independently, while online tools are available for adults to use to support groups of young people (ages 12 to 18) and groups of primary school aged children to get involved. The final date for submitting views of children and young people is 19 November.

- A [public consultation](#) is still available for adults, professional agencies and organisations to give their views, closing on 26 November.

Justice

[Experiences of children in prison captured in pre-inspection survey by HMIPS](#)

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons for Scotland (HMIPs) has published the findings from a pre-inspection survey it undertook to capture and better understand the experiences, health and wellbeing of children in prison. Developed together with the Children and Young People's Centre for Justice (CYCJ) and the Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland (CYPCS), the survey found that among participants there were high levels of loss, separation and disruption in their childhoods. The majority of children were affected by the death of a close relative or friend, and the same number also affected by family breakdown. Experiences of abuse and neglect were also prevalent. The survey also found that children were physically well cared for and there was evidence of valued relationships with prison staff. However, children's psychological, educational, social or cultural rights and needs were often not being met in prison.



- The survey findings were published alongside [guidance](#) for children in custody, jointly produced by CYCJ and the CYPSC, detailing what human rights children are entitled to in custody, and how to make sure these are met.

Mental Health

[Mental Welfare Commission publishes young people monitoring report 2020-21](#)

The Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland has published its young people monitoring report for 2020-21. According to the report, there were 86 admissions of young people under the age of 18 to non-specialist, mostly adult, hospital wards for mental health treatment in the previous year. This is a fall from 2019-20 where there were 103 admissions, but the report stresses these numbers are not directly comparable due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Other Health and Social Care

[Consultation on Care Inspectorate corporate plan launched](#)

We have launched a formal consultation on our new Corporate Plan, which will cover the three-year period from 2022-2025. The consultation will run until 21 November and is available to complete on our [consultation platform](#). We are also hosting a series of online consultation events, which will take place on:

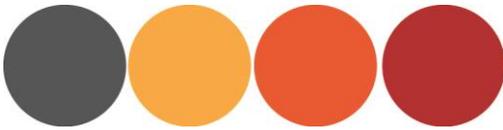
- Friday 12 November: 10:00 – 11:30
- Tuesday 16 November: 10:00 – 11:30
- Tuesday 16 November: 13:00 – 14:30
- Wednesday 17 November: 10:00 – 11:30

[Update on NES Knowledge Services](#)

NHS Education for Scotland (NES) has provided an update on the work of its Knowledge Services in providing a digital library service for all health and social care staff in the NHS, local authorities, and the third and independent sectors. The [Social Services Knowledge Scotland \(SSKS\) Library Search](#) allows users to find books, journals and articles designed to support practice and learning. The article also highlights the SSKS resources available on the Care Inspectorate's [Hub website](#).

[Guidance published on flexible workforce development fund](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has produced a summary of guidance on the flexible workforce development fund, which supports Scottish employers to provide inclusive learning opportunities for their existing workforce. Social service workers can access funded training or qualifications through the fund, which can lead to career progression and help in the development of new skills.



[Guidance to public bodies on leadership in meeting global climate problems](#)

Guidance to public bodies on their leadership role in the shared national endeavour to tackle the global crises of health, climate emergency and biodiversity loss has been published by the Scottish Government. The guidance provides advice on: leadership; carbon management; interpretations of the strengthened legislation for reporting duties; and resources available to support public bodies.

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.

It should also be noted that the Care Inspectorate has no liability in respect of the content of external websites which may be signposted on this site.