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Covid-19 - General

[Covid-19 advisory group to assess public health threat](#)

Terms of reference for the Coronavirus (Covid-19): Advisory Sub-Group on Public Health Threat Assessment have been published by the Scottish Government. The advisory group will provide advice to the chief medical officer and to Scottish ministers by: determining the likelihood and impact of significant clinical risks to public health which may occur during the next 12 months; identifying data to signal in advance these emerging risks and also monitoring the response of the health and social care system in addressing these; and describing high value and evidence-based interventions that healthcare systems can begin to plan and make contingency for, should these threats arise.

[First oral antiviral for Covid-19 approved by MHRA](#)

The MHRA has announced the antiviral, Lagevrio (molnupiravir), is safe and effective at reducing the risk of hospitalisation and death in people with mild to moderate Covid- 19 who are at increased risk of developing severe disease. The MHRA recommends its use as soon as possible after a positive Covid-19 test and within five days of symptoms onset.



Care Homes

[Consultation on quality framework for care homes and schoolcare accommodation](#)

The Care Inspectorate has launched a consultation on the review of our quality framework for care homes for children and young people and schoolcare accommodation (special residential schools). As part of the review, we are consulting with a range of interested parties so that everyone with an interest in care homes for children and young people and school care accommodation has the opportunity to share their views on the quality framework.

Child Protection

[Future case study into abuse of children in foster care](#)

The Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry has announced that a future case study to start in spring 2022 with public hearings into the abuse of children in foster care. Part one of the case study will feature evidence from relevant experts and regulatory bodies to provide context and scene setting. The Inquiry will then hear evidence from individuals who experienced abuse in foster care as well as a range of other witnesses

Early Learning and Childcare

[Understanding and supporting children with ADHD in early years](#)

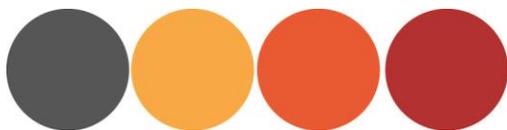
A virtual session on supporting young children with ADHD in an early years setting will be held by Early Years Scotland on 30 November 2021. The session aims to help people understand what ADHD is – and isn't – and which strategies and therapeutic approaches that may support the children you work with to enhance their learning experiences.

[Health inequalities in the early years](#)

A report by the Children's Alliance, examining the 'The Health and Wellbeing of Children in the Early Years', sets out recommendations in relation to nutrition, oral health, speech and language, mental and emotional health and wellbeing, access to support, and early years support and funding. The overall view of the Children's Alliance is that children should be placed at the heart of any post-pandemic recovery.

[Engagement event for childminders on wraparound school age childcare](#)

The Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) will hold an engagement event for childminders on exploring the Scottish Government commitment to build a system of wraparound school age childcare in Scotland, and how childminders can be involved on 29 November 2021. This will reportedly be an opportunity to hear from policy



officials about plans to deliver on this commitment and an invitation to contribute ideas, share any thoughts and ask questions.

Education

[Updated ASL action plan](#)

The Scottish Government has published an updated Additional Support for Learning Action Plan setting out progress made since October 2020. Within the first year eight of the actions have been completed fully and the majority of other actions are ongoing and on track. A further updated action plan will be published in spring 2022. A [progress report](#) has also been published.

[Project launches to discuss education terminology](#)

Education Scotland has launched a project for practitioners and stakeholders to discuss detailed definitions around the common language and terminology used across the education system in Scotland and find some commonality. There are two national conversation events planned for 18 and 29 November 2021.

[Study suggest early education leads to better academic results \(England\)](#)

Results of a study by the UK Government's Department for Education on children's use of early childhood education and care (ECEC), reportedly shows that attendance at higher quality ECEC between two and four years old is associated with better academic results in school years one and two. Additionally, an early start to formal ECEC combined with a higher amount of formal ECEC use was associated with better child outcomes for disadvantaged children only.

Workforce

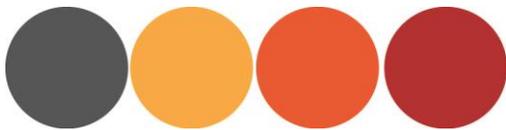
[Careers in social work, social care, and early years sector](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSC) is promoting their updates on studying, careers, funding and recruitment in the social work, social care and early years sector. The updates include that there are limited places available with the Open University, the introduction to career in social care short, online course, and the online Skills Scotland national careers fair.

Other Health and Social Care

[Children's Commissioner Annual report](#)

The Annual Report for 2020/21 has been published by the Children & Young People's Commissioner Scotland. The report focuses on the impact of Covid-19 on children and young people. It covers work such as involving children and young people, and incorporation of the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).



[Consultation on statutory guidance on assessment of wellbeing](#)

The Scottish Government has launched a consultation on draft statutory guidance on assessment of wellbeing, as required in the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. This Statutory Guidance is for practitioners and managers to embed Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC) into their everyday practice. The consultation closes on 4 February 2022.

[Inquiry into health and wellbeing of children and young people](#)

The Scottish Parliament's Health, Social Care & Sport Committee has launched an inquiry into the health and wellbeing of children and young people. The inquiry aims to address key issues including child poverty, challenges for care experienced young people, mental health and access to CAMHS, and health and wellbeing in schools. The Committee is asking for views before the closing date of 7 December 2021.

[Committee inquiry into perinatal mental health](#)

The Health, Social Care and Sport Committee is undertaking a short inquiry into perinatal mental health in Scotland with the aim of exploring key issues facing new mothers during pregnancy and following the birth of a child that can impact mental health. The call for views closes on 24 November 2021.

[New Director for CYCJ](#)

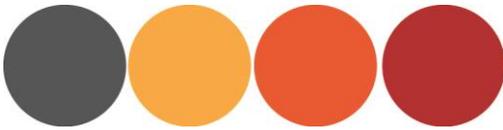
The Children and Young People's Centre for Justice (CYCJ) has appointed Fiona Dyer as its new director. She has been acting as interim director, was deputy director of CYCJ since its creation in 2013 and has previously worked in social work practice and management.

[Findings from the review of care service definitions](#)

The findings from the review of care service definitions has been published by the Scottish Government. Iriss was commissioned by the Government to conduct independent research on current care service definitions, which included engagement with stakeholders from the sector. The report outlines some of the challenges current definitions pose, such as restricting service provisions and hindering person-centred care. The report also notes that current definitions worsened gaps between health and social care and caused barriers to integrated working.

[Care Inspectorate introduces new Scrutiny Assessment Tool](#)

We are introducing a new Scrutiny Assessment Tool (SAT) to replace our current risk assessment tool (RAD) and our Covid-19 SAT. The SAT is a trigger tool to identify indicators of potential concerns in services. After 28 October inspectors will begin the process of moving over to using the SAT.

**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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