



Covid-19 – General

[Advice accepted to extend vaccination booster programme](#)

The UK Government's Department of Health & Social Care has confirmed they have accepted advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) on extending the Covid booster vaccination programme for those aged between 40 and 49 and offering a second COVID vaccine dose to 16 and 17-year-olds.

[Update to Framework for managing the pandemic](#)

The Scottish Government has published an updated Strategic Framework for Covid-19 ahead of anticipated winter health challenges and potential reductions in Covid vaccine effectiveness. The updated Framework sets out the Government's latest approach to managing the pandemic.

[Covid-19 – General](#)

[Early Learning and
Childcare](#)

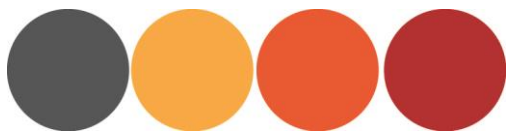
[Education](#)

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Early Learning and Childcare

[Summary of discussion on childminder recruitment challenges in rural and remote areas](#)

The Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) has published a summary of its meeting on Thursday 11 November with Highlands & Islands Enterprise, the Scottish Government, the Care Inspectorate, COSLA, Skills Development Scotland and the Office of the Chief Social Work Adviser on childminder recruitment challenges in remote and rural areas. As well as outlining the work of the SCMA, they reportedly sought to start to build consensus for the need for a wider strategic response over the medium and long-term including exploring if economic assistance may be required.

[Workforce survey launches for out of school care](#)

The Scottish Out of School care Network (SOSCN) has launched its 2021 workforce survey to gather information from its members on pay and conditions and the impact of the pandemic on the out of school childcare workforce. The annual survey is also seeking view on the current suite of registerable qualifications and their impact on practice.

Education

[School regulator asked to accelerate inspections \(England\)](#)

The English education regulator Ofsted has announced it has been asked by the UK Government to accelerate its programme of inspections to ensure all schools and further education providers are inspected by 2025 to provide an assessment of how well education is recovering from the Covid pandemic.

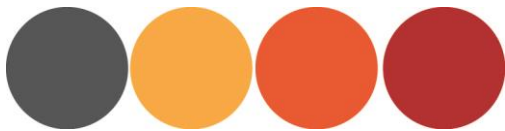
Human Rights

[Report on progress in promoting the rights of children](#)

The Scottish Government has published a report into the actions taken to support and promote the rights of children in Scotland in line with Part 1 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 Act from 2018 until 2021. The report gives an update after the end of the 2018-2021 plan, children's rights in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic and key initiatives for taking forward children's rights. [An easy read version](#) has also been published.

[Action plan for rights of children for 2021-2024](#)

An action plan for the next three years of 2021-2024 has been published, detailing what the Scottish Government will do to further the rights of children. The action plan sets out the vision, aims, context and content.



[Guidance on completing a children's rights impact assessment](#)

Guidance has been published by the Scottish Government on how to complete a Children's Rights and Wellbeing Screening Sheet and Impact Assessment (CRWIA). The guidance includes links to useful resources for gathering evidence, involving children and young people in the development of your policy/measure and ensuring decisions are necessary and proportionate. This non-statutory guidance has been developed in partnership with public authorities and the third sector, and introduces key concepts within the UNCRC and links with further resources for embedding a children's rights-based approach in public services.

[Guidance on implementation of the UNCRC](#)

Non-statutory guidance has been published by the Scottish Government, developed in partnership with public authorities and the third sector, introducing key concepts within the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and links with further resources for embedding a children's rights-based approach in public services. The guidance covers the UNCRC, supporting and giving effect to it, children's right to participate in decisions, and child rights and wellbeing impact assessments.

Justice

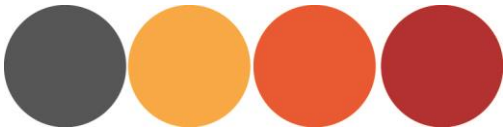
[Funded PhD studentships in Law on child friendly justice](#)

The Children and Young People's Centre for Justice (CYCJ) has announced it will be supporting a fully funded PhD studentship in Law. Two PhD studentships are available: in Law, with a focus on a child friendly justice system (which CYCJ has part funded and will offer supervisory support for); and Politics, with a focus on government policy implementation for children's wellbeing. The CYCJ are particularly keen to hear from candidates who want to work with them (and others) to explore child-friendly justice, and to understand the challenges to justice for children in conflict with the law.

Mental Health

[Review of mental health care of children and young people \(England\)](#)

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has published a report on its reviews the mental health care of children and young people in seven areas in England. Whilst the review is only reflective of what has been found in the areas at which CQC looked, many of the themes and issues arising are not new. Amongst other findings, the review has reportedly shown that the pandemic has led to an increased demand on services, particularly eating disorder services, and services have struggled to meet demand, and whilst there are positive example of systems working collaboratively there are concerns around silo working.



Other Health and Social Care

[Call for increase to Scottish Child Payment](#)

STV News reports on a letter sent by a coalition of more than 100 charities, faith groups and trade unions calling on the Scottish Government to double the Scottish Child Payment in the upcoming budget. Coordinated by the End Child Poverty coalition in Scotland, the letter calls for a doubling of the £10-per-week-per-child benefit for low income families.

[New Permanent Secretary appointed](#)

John Paul Marks has been appointed Permanent Secretary, the Scottish Government has announced. Mr Marks joins the Scottish Government from the Department for Work and Pensions and succeeds Leslie Evans in the most senior leadership role in the civil service, taking up post on 5 January 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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