



## Covid-19 – General

### [Update statement by the First Minister](#)

A Covid-19 update statement given to the Scottish Parliament by the First Minister Nicola Sturgeon has confirmed the vaccine certification scheme won't be extended to cinemas, pubs and other hospitality venues. Instead, from Monday 6 December people attending existing venues covered by the scheme are to be given the option of providing a recent negative lateral flow test (LFT) as an alternative to proof of vaccination.

### [Impact of pandemic on young people's self-esteem and confidence](#)

The Prince's Trust has published research exploring the impact of the pandemic on young people's self-esteem and confidence around future work and skills. The research reportedly finds that over half of young people agree they've "lost confidence in themselves", which rises to 60% among those from lower income backgrounds.

### [Contact tracing to remain until September 2022](#)

The Scottish Government has confirmed that the contact tracing workforce will remain in place until September 2022. Work is also ongoing to identify the longer term strategic approach to contact tracing.

[Covid-19 – General](#)

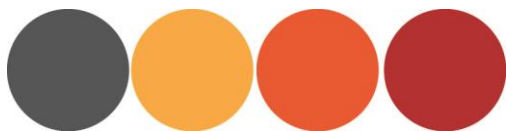
[Early Learning and  
Childcare](#)

[Education](#)

[Justice](#)

[Looked After and  
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### [Upcoming changes to Covid-19 reporting](#)

Public Health Scotland (PHS) is to implement some changes to its Covid-19 Weekly Report and Daily Dashboard. From 8 December, a new look PHS Covid-19 and Winter Weekly Report will be published each Wednesday, while PHS will also move to 5-day reporting of the Covid-19 Daily Dashboard, with weekend trend data reported on a Monday.

### **Early Learning and Childcare**

#### [Inclusion of childminders in delivering funded ELC](#)

The Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) has published a report on the number of childminders involved in delivering funded early learning and childcare (ELC) hours. The SCMA's findings reportedly show an increase in the number of childminders delivering funded ELC for three and four year olds, and the SCMA makes a number of recommendations towards the proposed extension of funded ELC and wraparound school-aged childcare.

#### [Inquiry into Universal Credit and childcare costs \(England\)](#)

The UK Parliament's Work and Pensions Committee has launched an inquiry into how well Universal Credit supports parents with childcare costs. They will be focusing on the requirement for parents to cover childcare costs upfront, the maximum amounts that the Government will reimburse each month, and how easy it is for parents to get advice about what support they can claim for.

### **Education**

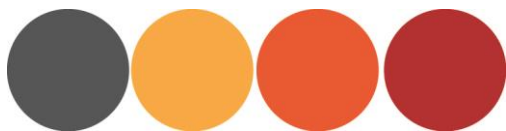
#### [Funding for school pupils in poverty](#)

The Scottish Government has announced targeted funding for school pupils experiencing poverty. In an update outlining plans for the next phase of the £1bn Scottish Attainment Challenge, £200million of funding has been confirmed for local authorities to tackle the attainment gap and support education recovery, money for head teachers through Pupil Equity Funding, and funding reserved for national programmes.

### **Justice**

#### [Age of criminal responsibility to increase from December](#)

The Scottish Children's Report Administration (SCRA) has welcomed confirmation from the Scottish Government's Children's Minister Clare Haughey that the Age of Criminal Responsibility (Scotland) Act 2019 will be fully in place from Friday 17 December. This means that the age of criminal responsibility in Scotland will increase from eight to 12 years old.



### [Chair sought for National Bairns' Hoose Governance Group](#)

Scottish Ministers are looking to appoint a Chair to the National Bairns' Hoose Governance Group and would welcome applications from those who can provide leadership to help deliver on a key Programme for Government commitment. The closing date for applications is 6 December 2021.

### **Looked After and Accommodated Children**

#### [The Promise to work with One Parent Families Scotland](#)

The Promise Scotland has announced that they will be working with One Parent Families Scotland on an approach to advising and supporting parents and carers to navigate the often challenging routes to prepare young people to 'move on' into independent living or return home from this at a time that is right for them. One Parent Families Scotland will take a specific interest in the challenges faced by young people from around the age of 14 and the needs of parents and carers in a range of family settings, including adoptive and kinship.

### **Other Health and Social Care**

#### [Child Disability Payment opens for applications](#)

The Scottish Government has announced that the Child Disability Payment has opened for applications nationwide. Applicants can apply online, as well as by phone, post or face-to-face. Those already receiving Disability Living Allowance for children do not need to apply. These approximately 52,000 current cases are being automatically transferred in phases from the Department for Work and Pensions to Social Security Scotland. This will be completed by spring 2023.

#### [Transfer scheme for children to become temporarily mandatory](#)

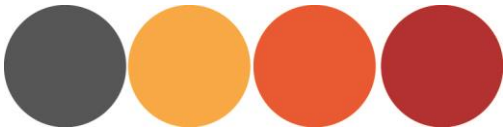
The UK Government's Minister for Safe and Legal Migration, Kevin Foster, has written to all local authorities with children's services across the UK to inform them of the government's intention to temporarily mandate the National Transfer Scheme. Under this change all local authorities have been given legal notice to accept transfers of children into their care, providing crucial placements to unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC).

#### [Iriss is looking for Board Members](#)

The Institute for Research and Innovation in Social Services (Iriss) is looking for Board Members with a closing date of 17 December 2021.

#### [Consultation on Right to Food \(Scotland\) Bill](#)

Rhoda Grant MSP has launched a consultation for her Proposed Right to Food (Scotland) Bill. The proposed Bill would seek to place duties on the Scottish



Government to ensure that food is accessible to people, financially and geographically, and that food is adequate in terms of nutrition, safety, and cultural appropriateness.

[Social Work Scotland welcomes interim report on children's social care market](#)

The publication of the Competition and Marketing Authority (CMA)'s interim report on the children's social care market has been welcomed by Social Work Scotland. The analysis of the market provided in the interim report is a picture with which they concur and recognise, and they also agree that there are regulatory and other barriers, and that cross border placements create particular challenges.

**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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