

Children and Young People



[Covid-19 - General](#)

[Child Protection](#)

[Disabilities](#)

[Education](#)

[Justice](#)

[Looked After and
Accommodated Children](#)

[Other Health and Social
Care](#)

Covid-19 - General

[Additional Covid measures to be lifted](#)

In a statement to the Scottish Parliament, the First Minister has announced additional measures aimed at mitigating the spread of the Omicron variant are to be lifted. The guidance to keep social interaction at home and in indoor public places to a maximum of three households is also being lifted but, given case numbers remain high, the public are being asked to be cautious and to limit contacts where possible, in addition to taking lateral flow tests before meeting people from other households.

[Younger children to be invited for vaccinations](#)

The Scottish Government has announced children aged five to 11-years-old, who have specific medical conditions which place them at greater risk from Covid-19, will be invited for their first vaccination. Parents do not need to book an appointment for them online as they will be contacted directly by health boards.



[Covid guidance updated](#)

Guidance on staying safe and protecting others during Covid has been updated by the Scottish Government. The 'meeting people' guidance has been clarified and the guidance on travel to events in other parts of the UK has been removed. The Scottish Government has also [updated](#) the overview page of guidance for people at the highest risk of COVID.

Child Protection

[Campaign opposing end-to-end encryption for social media](#)

A steering group up of Barnardo's, The Lucy Faithful Foundation, the Marie Collins Foundation and SafeToNet has launched a new campaign seeking to encourage social media companies to do more to protect children online by ending end-to-end encryption. The "No Place to Hide" campaign aims to raise public awareness of the implications and risks of encryption and calls for a debate on the importance of protecting privacy and children's safety.

Disabilities

[Scrutiny report on regulations](#)

The Scottish Commission on Social Security has published a scrutiny report on the Disability Assistance for Children and Young People (Scotland) Regulations 2021 and the Scottish Child Payment Regulations 2020 (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2022. The two recommendations from the report asks for the Scottish Government to explore the mismatch in residency tests between Carer's Assistance and Disability Assistance, and also to engage with people with lived experience to improve information and ensure accessibility. A [scrutiny report](#) on the draft Suspension of Assistance (Disability Assistance for Children and Young People) (Scottish Child Payment) (Scotland) Regulations 2021 has also been published.

Education

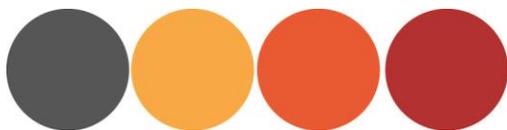
[Education award nominations are open](#)

Education Scotland are highlighting that nominations for the Scottish Education Awards 2022 are open for recognition of those who dedicate their lives to children and young people and showcases the valuable work and innovation in Scottish classrooms. Entry to the awards is open to all publicly funded schools, including secondary, primary, ELCs and special schools.

Justice

[Progress on implementing the Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy](#)

The Scottish Government has published the fourth annual progress report for 2020-21 on implementing its Trafficking & Exploitation Strategy. The report assesses



progress against three action areas which include identifying victims and supporting them to safety and recovery, identifying perpetrators and disrupting their activity, and addressing the conditions that foster trafficking and exploitation. Another section also details the work of the Child Trafficking Strategy Group which focuses the elements of the three actions areas which relate to children.

Looked After and Accommodated Children

[Committee session on health and wellbeing of care experienced children](#)

The Scottish Parliament's Health, Social Care and Sport Committee held another session as part of their Inquiry into the health and wellbeing of children and young people, with a panel focussing on care experienced children and young people which included representatives from The Promise Scotland, Care Inspectorate, Who Cares? Scotland, and CELCIS.

[Varied experiences for children leaving care \(England\)](#)

Ofsted has published the results of a survey, 'Ready or not: care leavers' experiences of leaving care', which reportedly finds that many care leavers experience a lack of choice and feel they need to leave care "whether they were ready or not." Additionally, many care leavers said they are not aware of the different kinds of support they are entitled to, and only around a half remembered being told about the help available to them in their local area.

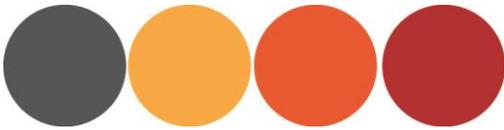
Other Health and Social Care

[Care Inspectorate annual audit report](#)

Audit Scotland has published the annual audit for the Care Inspectorate of 2020/21. The report is a summary of findings from their external audit work on the Care Inspectorate's annual report and accounts, and consideration of financial sustainability and a Governance Statement.

[Ministers seeking new appointments to Care Inspectorate Board](#)

Scottish Ministers are looking to make three appointments to the Care Inspectorate Board. Our Chair, Paul Edie, has made a [video](#) on what the Care Inspectorate does. More information on the appointments and to apply can be found on the Scottish Government [website](#).



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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