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Covid-19 - General

[Coronavirus \(Recovery & Reform\) \(Scotland\) Bill introduced](#)

Legislation proposing the permanent adoption or temporary extension of some measures enacted during the Covid-19 pandemic has been introduced by the Scottish Government. The Coronavirus (Recovery and Reform) (Scotland) Bill proposes changes in 30 specific legislative areas, which were modified by temporary provisions made under Scottish and UK coronavirus legislation. The Bill includes a provision for giving of notices to care services, which ensures that the Care Inspectorate can continue to issue formal notices to care service providers by electronic means on a permanent basis.

[Scottish Government consults on covid protection measures](#)

The Scottish Government has launched a short survey on people's experiences of covid protective measures and regulations – what they found easy, difficult and thoughts for the year ahead. The survey closes on 13 February and an easy read version is also available.

[Hybrid working to return from 31 January](#)

During a statement to Parliament, First Minister Nicola Sturgeon has announced that businesses can prepare to resume hybrid working from Monday 31 January, enabling more people to have a flexible return to working between home and the office.



Early Learning and Childcare

[Booster open invitation to all ELC staff](#)

The Scottish Government has written to all early learning and childcare staff to invite them to attend vaccine clinics to receive their Covid-19 booster. The letter from Interim Deputy Chief Medical Officer Professor Marion Bain includes information on the booster as well as lateral flow testing.

[Childcare market report published](#)

A report on the UK childcare market has been published by the brokerage Redwoods Dowling Kerr. The report highlights the challenges faced in 2021 but suggests it was an “exceptional year” for mergers and acquisitions in the sector. Predictions for 2022 include increased deal activity in Scotland, further consolidation among the top 30 UK childcare providers, more European/Global entrants acquiring UK-based providers, private-equity backed groups continuing to grow, and groups of fewer than five settings expanding their ‘geographical base’.

[Researchers chart changes in provision and warn of risks \(England\)](#)

A study charting changes in early years childcare provision in England over the past two decades has been published by University College London. Funded by the Nuffield Foundation, the researchers carried out interviews and surveys with around 80 nurseries, including in-depth investigations of the financial operation for five medium to large private-for-profit nursery groups and six not-for-profit nursery groups. The report warns that the nursery sector is at threat of being damaged in the same way the adult social care sector has been due to the prominence of large private-for-profit companies with risky financial operating models.

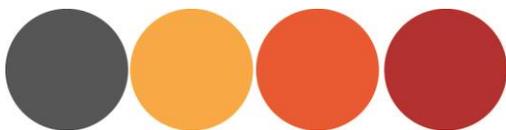
Justice

[New guidelines for sentencing young people come into force](#)

New guidelines on the sentencing of young people have come into force. Applying to the sentencing of those who are under the age of 25 at the date of their plea of guilty or when a finding of guilt is made against them, the guideline says that a young person will generally have a lower level of maturity, and a greater capacity for change and rehabilitation, than an older person. As such, rehabilitation should be a primary consideration when sentencing a young person. A [webinar](#) on the new guidelines has been presented by the Centre for Young People’s Centre for Justice and the Scottish Sentencing Council.

[Website launched for children and young people not familiar with justice system](#)

A new website aimed directly at children, young people and adults who may not be familiar with the justice system has been launched by the Children and Young People’s Centre for Justice. Co-created and produced with young people who have lived experience of the justice and care systems, Just the Right Space offers



information and advice about the criminal justice system and what to expect, children's rights, stories shared by those with experience of the justice and care systems, and places/groups that can offer further support.

[Review of custodial remand for children published \(England and Wales\)](#)

A review of custodial remand for children in England and Wales has been published by the UK Government. The review questions the "dominant narrative" that the number of children on remand has increased significantly or that custodial remand is regularly 'overused', suggesting the reality is "more complex". The report suggests a need to "strike a balance between preserving the best interests and welfare of the child on one hand and protecting the public from harm on the other", and recommends enhanced accommodation and community provision to ensure robust alternatives to custody are available where risk can be managed effectively.

Learning Disabilities

[Scotland's Learning Disability Week 2022: 2 – 8 May](#)

Scotland's Learning Disability Week will take place from 2 to 8 May, the Scottish Commission for Learning Disabilities has announced. The theme for this year is 'We all have human rights!' aimed at helping people with learning disabilities to recognise and realise their human rights.

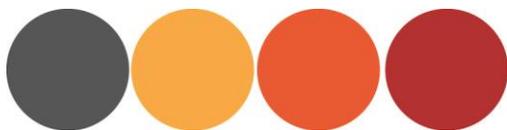
[Checklist launched to support parents of people with severe learning disabilities](#)

A checklist designed to help parents, carers and professionals improve the well-being of people with severe learning disability and complex needs has been launched by the brain condition charity Cerebra. Written by a research team led by Professor Chris Oliver, Emeritus Professor of Neurodevelopmental Disorders at the University of Birmingham, the Be-Well Checklist is a list of the things that are important to assess when thinking about the behaviour and wellbeing of children and adults with severe learning disability and complex needs. Cerebra has also published three new parent guides to support the tool: [Cognitive Differences: Inflexibility and Impulsivity](#); [Communication with Children with Severe or Profound Intellectual Disabilities](#); and [Emotional Outbursts](#).

Looked After and Accommodated Children

[Pilot self-evaluation tool on the use of restrictive practices](#)

A pilot self-evaluation tool to help residential childcare services in relation to the use of restrictive practices is available for use. Developed by the Care Inspectorate in collaboration with the Scottish Physical Restraint Action Group, the tool is designed to support services in upholding and promoting human rights and the rights of the child, and to help them evaluate how well they are doing in using restrictive practices and identifying areas where they want to improve. We will be holding webinars on 23 February and 15 March to support rollout of the tool.



[Scottish Government launches historical adoption questionnaire](#)

An online questionnaire inviting views on historical adoption has been launched by the Scottish Government. The Family Care Team would like to hear from anyone affected by outdated adoption processes, their representatives and/or organisations with an interest in historical adoption practices in Scotland. Questionnaires should be sent to the Family Care Team by 20 April.

[Responses to children's social care market study published](#)

Responses to a market study into children's social care provision have been published by the Competition and Market Authority (CMA). Respondents include the British Association of Social Work, the Care Inspectorate and Social Work Scotland. The CMA published an interim report for the study in October 2021 and is due to publish its final report by March 2022.

[New CELCIS Director appointed](#)

Claire Burns has been appointed as the new Director of the Centre for Excellence for Children's Care and Protection (CELCIS). Ms Burns had been Acting Director of CELCIS since April 2020 and has been part of the Senior Management Team since 2011.

Other Health and Social Care

[Latest Involve newsletter published](#)

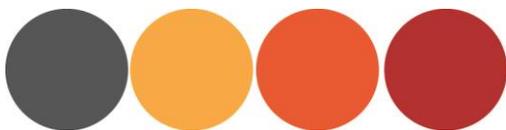
The latest edition of the Care Inspectorate's Involve newsletter has been published. The newsletter provides an update on what our involvement and equalities team and volunteers have been working on over the last six months. Our work is improved by involving people who use services and their carers and we have many ways that people can get involved with us and can influence our work. If you would like to find out more about our volunteering opportunities visit our [website](#) or get in touch by emailing get.involved@careinspectorate.gov.scot.

[Latest Care Inspectorate Statistical Summary Report published](#)

The Care Inspectorate Statistical Summary Report for Quarter 3 of 2021/22 has now been released. This presents data on the number of registered care services, new registrations and cancellations, complaints about care services and quality theme grades all by care service type and or service sector. This is updated on a quarterly basis.

[Audit briefing calls for action to address social care issues](#)

A briefing highlighting "fundamental issues and threats to the future sustainability of Scotland's social care system" has been published by the Accounts Commission and Auditor General for Scotland. Key findings include limited progress in moving to more preventative approaches to delivering social care and a workforce which is



under “immense pressure” and not adequately valued or rewarded. The briefing highlights reforms underway, including The Promise and the development of a National Care Service, but suggests there is a need to identify changes that can be taken forward now, without legislation.

[Young carers survey launched by Carers Trust Scotland](#)

A survey for young carers and young adult carers aged 12-25 has been launched by Carers Trust Scotland. The survey will be used to provide updated evidence on the pressures and challenges experienced by young people as a result of their caring role, as well as the ongoing impact of Covid-19. It will also provide information about what support young carers and young adult carers would most value.

[Commission publishes child poverty advice to Scottish Government](#)

The Poverty and Inequality Commission has published its advice to the Scottish Government on its Child Poverty Delivery Plan 2022-26. The report makes recommendations about the approach that the Scottish Government should take to the next Delivery Plan, and about some of the actions that should be included in it. According to the report, child poverty levels have been “at best stagnating” since the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 was established and the Scottish Government “must use all the levers available to it and deliver action at a much greater pace and scale, and with significantly higher levels of investment” in order to meet its targets.

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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