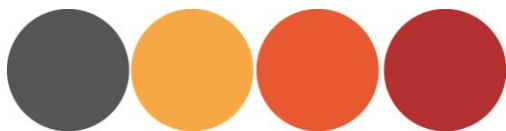


[Covid-19 - General](#)[Additional Support Needs](#)[Disability](#)[Early Learning and Childcare](#)[Justice](#)[Looked After and Accommodated Children](#)[Mental Health](#)[Play](#)[Other Health and Social Care](#)**Covid-19 - General**[First Minister Covid update to parliament](#)

The legal requirements to wear face coverings on public transport and most indoor public settings will continue until at least early April given the current increase in Covid case numbers, First Minister Nicola Sturgeon has announced. In an update to the Scottish Parliament, the First Minister also confirmed that the remaining legal requirements for businesses and service providers to collect customer details for contact tracing, and to have regard to and take reasonable measures set out in Covid guidance, will end as planned on Monday 21 March.

[Updated test and protect transition plan published](#)

The Scottish Government has published its updated Test and Protect plans for the endemic phase of the Covid-19 pandemic, setting out how it will manage the transition from the current testing position to the end steady state. It notes that the primary purpose of testing is changing from population wide testing to reduce transmission to targeted testing to support clinical care. Testing will still play an ongoing role in health and care workforces, given the clinical risk in those settings, and will be a key part of surveillance. From 18 April, free lateral flow tests will no longer be available for the general population but will continue to be free where testing continues to be advised – for clinical care, for health and social care workers and for people visiting vulnerable individuals in care homes or hospitals.



[Updated ventilation guidance published](#)

The Scottish Government has published updated ventilation guidance as we move on to a new phase of the pandemic and restrictions and regulations are relaxed. The guidance is designed to support the mixing of individuals safely in indoor settings and is aimed at both domestic and non-domestic properties.

[Impact assessments published for establishment of public inquiry](#)

The Scottish Government has published an [EQIA](#), [ICIA](#), and [FSDA](#) for the establishment of the Scottish Covid public inquiry. The impact assessments evaluate the processes surrounding the ministerial decision to exercise powers under the Inquiries Act 2005 to establish a Scottish public inquiry into the Covid pandemic.

Disability

[PAMIS hosts 30th anniversary webinar](#)

PAMIS (Promoting a More Inclusive Society) is hosting a webinar on Thursday 21 April. It will be an online conversation with Professor Mark Solms and Dr Nicola Grove exploring questions and implications of the theories discussed in Mark's latest book. Dr Grove has specialist experience in the field of narrative development and intervention with children and adults with PMLD.

[Charities and industry call on councils to create accessible play spaces](#)

Play charities and councils from across the UK have issued a joint statement from children calling for additional accessible play spaces for disabled children. The statement highlights the lack of available inclusive places for children to play within reasonable distance of their home, as well as highlighting that it is possible to increase accessibility and remove barriers by engaging with children and their families.

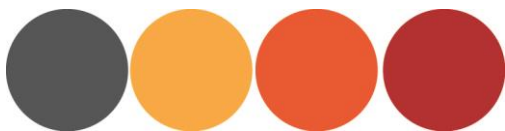
[SCLD publishes final reports from 'How's Life?' Survey](#)

The Scottish Commission for People with Learning Disabilities (SCLD) has published the final two reports from its 'How's Life?' Survey. [The My Home, My Community](#), and [My Time, My Choice](#) reports highlight the need for improvement in inclusive communities, including workplaces, with 36% of 'My Home, My Community' respondents showing they did not feel safe in their local area. The reports set out ways to improve the lives of people living with learning disabilities to increase overall satisfaction.

Early Learning and Childcare

[Scottish Government writes to childcare providers on Test and Protect transition plan](#)

The Scottish Government has issued a letter to childcare providers regarding its Test and Protect Transition Plan. The Transition Plan sets out the timelines for moving



away from population-wide testing aimed at reducing transmission, towards a more targeted approach to testing. As part of the plan, the schools asymptomatic testing programme will end at the end of this term (for ELC settings which do not operate to school term dates, the final date for testing will be 17th April).

[New practice note for all ELC staff to support trips and outings](#)

The Care Inspectorate has published a new practice note for all Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) staff to support trips and outings. This will provide a prompt for reflecting on and developing approaches to keeping children safe on trips and outings while ensuring they still have opportunities to be curious and develop their learning.

[Webinar on National Cost Collection for ELC providers](#)

Early Years Scotland, NDNA and COSLA are hosting a free webinar on the National Cost Collection exercise. The exercise, to be completed by Ipsos Mori, was commissioned by COSLA and the Improvement service to help councils in local sustainability. The webinar will take place on Friday 18 March, and will allow providers to hear about the background to the survey, myth busting, as well as a question-and-answer session.

[Simplified Covid-19 guidance for childcare settings published](#)

The Scottish Government has published updated and simplified Covid-19 guidance for childcare settings. The letter to childcare settings gives details of what has changed and includes information about a free online evening event to be held on 24 March. The event is to discuss the evidence behind the changes to guidance and testing programmes, and will feature a public health expert, the Scottish Government policy team and colleagues from the Care Inspectorate. The event is open to anyone working in childcare, across all sectors.

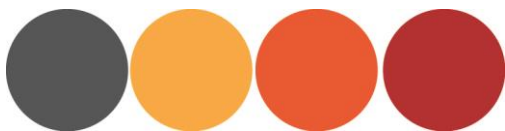
[Published ELC ratings to return in April \(Wales\)](#)

Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) has reviewed and overturned a temporary suspension to award ratings for early learning and childcare settings, starting on 4 April. According to CIW, the ratings “provide clarity for parents and the public about our judgements” and “have an important part to play in promoting good outcomes for the children who use childcare and play services in Wales”.

Justice

[Grant to support development of solutions to issues for justice-involved young adults](#)

The Children and Young People’s Centre for Justice (CYCJ) has been awarded a Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE) Research Network Grant for its ‘Co-designing Socially Just Justice for Young Adults in Conflict with the Law’ project. The scheme aims to use design-led methods to co-produce solutions to issues that justice-involved young adults identify as priorities for change. Building on a former study, the



project aims to translate findings into policy and practice change and establish a multi-disciplinary research network to generate new insights into the role of community in offending and desistance, and their potential for shaping socially just communities.

[CYCJ explores awareness of Restorative Justice amongst school children](#)

The Children and Young People's Centre for Justice (CYCJ) has published a report it conducted with school children on their views about Restorative Justice in Scotland. CYCJ was commissioned by the Scottish Government to explore awareness, understanding and attitudes to Restorative Justice as part of the Scottish Government's Restorative Justice [Action Plan](#).

[CYCJ webinar on enabling participation in youth justice](#)

Professor Laura Lundy (Queen's University Belfast, University College Cork) has discussed what it means for vulnerable children to be heard in a seminar for the Children and Young People's Centre for Justice (CYCJ). Slides are available from the seminar, in which Professor Lundy explored how children and young people in the youth justice system can be involved in decisions that affect them, drawing on both the Lundy model of child participation and children and young people's perspectives gathered in the [UN Global Study on Children Deprived of their Liberty](#).

Looked After and Accommodated Children

[CELCIS research suggests more needed to implement Continuing Care](#)

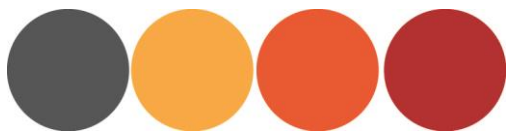
The Centre for excellence for Children's Care and Protection (CELCIS) has published a research paper on Scotland's policy of continuing care for young people. The research shows that continuing care is being implemented consistently between local authorities, but practitioners want continuing care to be seen as the 'default' for young people. The research sets out recommendations to address culture and leadership, guidance and highlighting improvements.

[Research on better recruitment for foster carers](#)

Iriss has published an article by Dr Dorothy Neriah on research into understanding how to recruit foster carers. The research shows that recruitment can be broken down into three key phases: introduction, exploration, and testing & assessment. The introductory phase involves activities aimed at attracting people with high fostering potential. Exploration helps potential fosterers explore the decision to foster through conversation and finally training and assessment is often the most stressful time for potential foster carers and can put people off the process. According to Dr Neriah, a relational and supportive approach can help ease the transition.

[List of issues for debate during redesign of Children's Hearings System](#)

Keeping The Promise Hearings System Working Group has published a list of issues for debate. The list aims to support those with lived experience in all its forms in the



collaborative redesign of the Children's Hearings System, as well as form a basis for wider engagement and discussion with Hearings System partners.

[High Court rejects call for review into unregulated placements for over-16s \(England\)](#)

A judicial review into banning the use of unregulated accommodation for 16 and 17-year-olds has been rejected by the High Court, Children and Young People Now reports. In September 2021, the UK Government banned the use of unregulated care settings for children and young people under the age of 16. Children's rights charity Article 39 took legal action against the Department of Education to ensure young people receive mandatory care up to the age of 18. However, the High Court has dismissed the appeal. Ofsted now oversees unregulated support accommodation for 16 and 17-year-olds under a new mandatory standard from 2023.

Mental Health

[Mental Health Law Review launches Phase 3 consultation](#)

The Scottish Mental Health Law Review has launched a consultation as it moves into the third phase of its work. The paper outlines some of the proposals for change to the law put forward by the review team, developed in partnership with people with lived experience and mental health practitioners. The consultation, which includes a chapter on children and young people, closes on Friday 27 May, with the final report due to be submitted to ministers by the end of September.

[CAMHS waiting times published by Public Health Scotland](#)

Public Health Scotland has published new figures from October to December 2021 relating to waiting times for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS). The research suggests that children being referred for specialist treatment from CAMHS increased by 19.8%, with over 10,000 children and young people being referred to CAMHS in the quarter ending December 2021. The Scottish Government sets 90% as the standard for children and young people receiving care within 18 weeks, however on average 70.3% of children and young people were seen within the 18-week wait time.

Play

[Play Scotland works with Shetland Family Centre to combat social isolation](#)

Play Scotland worked with the Shetland Family Centre to combat isolation and play deprivation caused by Covid-19 lockdown. Through the 'Get into Summer' funding, made available by the Scottish Government, Play Scotland provided resources to help families play together and combat social isolation on an island made up of remote, rural communities.



Other Health and Social Care

[Fire risk safety assessment documents updated](#)

The Scottish Government has updated its guidance for fire risk safety assessment, updating the care home form, the Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMO) form and the fire safety risk assessment record.

[Scottish Parliament to appoint new Chair of Scottish Human Rights Commission](#)

The appointment of Ian Duddy as the new Chair of the Scottish Human Rights Commission (SHRC) has been endorsed by the Scottish Parliament. Mr Duddy will take up the post in June 2022, following the departure of current Chair Judith Robertson later this month. Ms Robertson has led the SHRC for the past six years.

[Public Health Scotland papers link gender to health priorities](#)

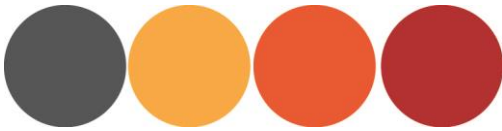
Public Health Scotland have published six briefings outlining the relationship between violence against women and girls (VAWG) and Scotland's public health priorities. The briefings highlight the challenges faced by women in relation to six public health priorities and provide recommendations for what a public health response to this issue could look like. The briefings cover the following public health priorities: Safe places and communities; The early years; Mental wellbeing; Alcohol and drugs; Poverty and inequality; Healthy lifestyles.

[BASW calls for appropriate safeguarding for Ukrainian refugees](#)

The British Association of Social Workers (BASW) has called for the UK Government to ensure appropriate safeguarding arrangements are in place for children and adults arriving as refugees from Ukraine. In a statement welcoming the generosity of those offering to accommodate refugees, BASW said it was "concerned about how the UK scheme will be resourced and managed, how people will be matched and how the welfare and social support of Ukrainians staying here over time will be addressed".

[Call for Iriss Insight topic ideas](#)

Iriss has issued a call for topic ideas for its Insights series. Iriss Insights provide a concise summary of evidence on a particular topic relating to social care or social work. Any ideas for topics should be submitted by 1 April.

**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.

It should also be noted that the Care Inspectorate has no liability in respect of the content of external websites which may be signposted on this site.