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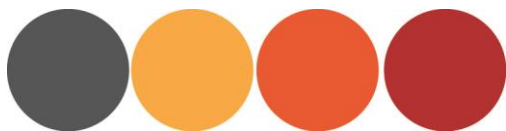
Covid-19 - General

[Update on Covid-19 restrictions](#)

Legal requirements to wear face coverings on public transport and most indoor public settings will be replaced with guidance in the coming weeks, First Minister Nicola Sturgeon has announced. From Monday 4 April, the legal requirement to wear a face covering in places of worship or while attending a marriage ceremony, civil partnership registration, funeral or commemorative event will end. The requirement to wear face coverings in other indoor areas such as retail spaces and public transport will become guidance on 18 April.

[NHS to remain on emergency footing](#)

Health Secretary Humza Yousaf has confirmed that the NHS will continue on an emergency footing until at least 30 April 2022. In a response to Government-initiated parliamentary question, Mr Yousaf said the system remains under significant pressure and there is a record-high number of Covid patients in hospital. According to the Health Secretary, the capacity of the NHS and the wellbeing of its workforce must be appropriately balanced to respond to increasing demands of emergency and urgent care, while reducing the backlog of planned care.



Child Protection

[Clinical pathway for supporting children and young people who may have experienced child sexual abuse](#)

A clinical pathway for healthcare professionals working to support children and young people who may have experienced child sexual abuse has been published by the Scottish Government. The pathway is designed to ensure a consistent approach to the provision of healthcare and forensic medical examination services for children and young people of either sex who may have experienced sexual abuse, covering the journey of care and support for the child or young person, from initial concern through to their onward recovery.

[New website provides information on online relationships and consent for 11 – 18s](#)

A new website providing information for 11 – 18 year olds on topics such as online relationships, boundaries and sexual consent has been launched by the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre. Information on The Internet, Relationships & You is split across seven areas: relationships, socialising online, nudes, sex and sexual content online, sexual abuse, support and online safety.

[Parent Club online safety campaign launched](#)

A new campaign to give parents and carers the tools they need to check and monitor what children in their care are doing online has been launched by Parent Club. The Scottish Government website now provides advice on how to talk to kids about what they do online, how to agree boundaries, practical things to make the internet safer and where to find further help if needed.

Disabilities

[Scottish Disability Week 2022](#)

The Scottish Commission for People with Learning Disabilities (SCLD) has confirmed that this year's Scottish Disability Week will take place between 2 and 8 May. The theme of this year's event is 'We all have human rights' in reference to the Scottish Government's commitment to incorporate the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) into the upcoming Human Rights Bill for Scotland.

[Changing Faces launches 'A World of Difference' youth resources](#)

A new resource has been launched to help better support young people in Scotland with visible differences and disfigurements, the ALLIANCE has highlighted. The resource, published by the Changing Faces charity, gives step-by-step support to anyone running a workshop with their youth group on challenging stereotypes and thinking differently about appearance and body image.



[UK Government publishes paper on SEND reform \(England\)](#)

The UK Government has published a green paper on reform of support for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in England. The paper is the result of the SEND Review, with the plans, including new national standards across education, health and care, open for a 13-week public consultation. According to the paper, the UK Government will work with Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission to strengthen the ability to hold local areas to account against the new standards detailed in the report.

Early Learning and Childcare

[Childminder recruitment campaign for remote and rural communities launched](#)

A new pilot project to support the recruitment and training of new professional childminders in remote and rural areas has been launched. The Scottish Rural Childminding Partnership pilot, led by the Scottish Childminding Association with £170,000 partnership funding, aims to support economic and community development through the creation of more than 100 new professional childminding jobs and up to 900 much-needed childcare spaces for families in specific communities within ten defined areas of Scotland.

[Milk and Healthy Snack Scheme guidance published](#)

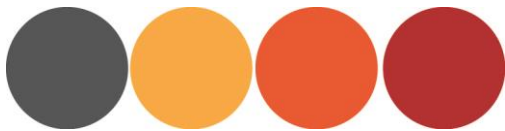
The Scottish Government has published statutory guidance for the operation of the Scottish Milk and Healthy Snack Scheme for local authorities and participating day-care settings. The scheme offers funding for a daily portion of plain fresh cow's milk (or specified alternative) and a healthy snack (fresh fruit or vegetables) for pre-school children spending two hours or more in the care of a regulated day care provider and/or childminder that has registered for the Scheme. The interim guidance will run from 1 April 2022 until 31 March 2023.

[Scottish Government Covid update for childcare providers](#)

The Scottish Government has issued a Covid-19 update to all registered childcare providers and childminders. Information includes how to watch a recent event on updated Covid-19 guidance and testing, how practitioners can provide input to a forthcoming event on vaccination, and a point of clarification on the use of refillable cleaning products.

[Childcare regulation to be looked at by the UK Government \(England\)](#)

UK Children's Minister Will Quince will "look into" the regulation of childcare settings in England compared with processes used abroad, Children and Young People Now reports. Speaking to BBC Radio Four's Today programme, Mr Quince stated that the Department for Education will look at how the early years sector is regulated in nations such as Sweden, France and the Netherlands.



Justice

[Updated MAPPA guidance published by Scottish Government](#)

Updated national guidance on Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) has been published by the Scottish Government. The guidance relates to obligations set out under sections 10 and 11 of the Management of Offenders etc. (Scotland) Act 2005. This version of the guidance reflects an on-going programme of revision to take account of new legislation as well as changes in guidance, policy and effective practice.

[Funding for victim support organisations](#)

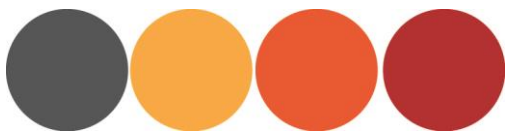
Grant funding of £48m will be provided to 20 organisations under the new Victim Centred Approach Fund over the 2022-25 period, the Scottish Government has confirmed. The bulk of funding has been awarded to Victim Support Scotland, which is receiving just over £18m in funding to support women and girls, trafficking victims and ethnic minorities. The Government has also confirmed an independent review of the Victim Notification Scheme will commence in April, to be led by Alastair Macdonald, former chair of Victim Support Scotland.

Looked After and Accommodated Children

[Scottish Government publishes The Promise Implementation Plan](#)

The Scottish Government has published an [implementation plan](#) setting out actions and commitments to support delivery of The Promise. Key actions include:

- a commitment to set a Recommended National Allowance for foster and kinship allowances
- a consultation on the need for further legislation or guidance to ensure children's rights are protected in care settings
- review and legislation for a redesign of the Children's Hearings System
- a Promise Bill to make any further legislative changes required
- work to build an evidence base to understand the best governance, financial arrangements and models of care to assess how to best Keep The Promise
- a blueprint for the creation and control of, and access to, information about care experienced people
- establishment of The Promise Collective, co-chaired with The Promise Scotland, to support alignment and cohesion of activities
- collaboration with The Promise Scotland to scope a new, holistic framework for governance and accountability.



[Consultation launched on proposed Children's Care and Justice Bill](#)

A consultation on proposals that would make significant changes to the regulation of secure care and residential and cross-border placements has been launched by the Scottish Government. The consultation includes proposals to simplify and clarify the regulatory landscape relating to secure care, and to reduce the disincentives to the use of secure care as opposed to young offender institutions when a child is being remanded. The consultation also proposes to introduce pathways and standards for residential care for children and young people in Scotland, and a future increased role for the Care Inspectorate which ensures that through the registration criteria, notifications systems and inspection processes there are explicit references to cross-border placements. The deadline for responses is 22 June.

[Analysis of responses to proposed regulation of cross-border DOL placements](#)

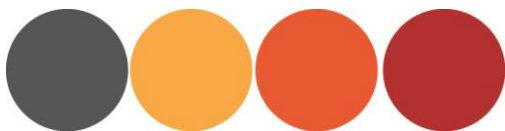
The Scottish Government has published an analysis of responses to its [position paper](#) on the cross-border placements of children and young people into residential care in Scotland. The paper had sought views on proposals for regulations that would recognise Deprivation of Liberty (DOL) Orders in Scotland as if they were Compulsory Supervision Orders. According to the analysis, respondents were clear that current policy and practice provisions around cross-border DOL placements should be improved, and many expressed support in principle for the intention to better regulate the placement process. The Scottish Government intends to lay the proposed regulations as a short-term interim step, ahead of primary legislation.

[Design guide for children and young people's care homes published](#)

The Care Inspectorate has published a new design guide to illustrate what good care home building design looks like for children and young people's care homes. The design guide provides guidance for those designing a new building or registering a premises that was previously registered as a care home. The guide is also relevant when planning to improve or adapt the environment of an existing care home, taking over an existing care service or varying a condition of registration. It describes the environments that people should expect when living in a care home so that they have positive experiences and outcomes in a homely setting.

[Care Inspectorate position on emergency placements in response to Ukraine crisis](#)

The Care Inspectorate has published a note on emergency foster care and residential child care placements in response to the Ukraine crisis. The consequences of the crisis, and the incremental impact of displaced families and unaccompanied children travelling to the UK, is likely to have a very significant impact on the delivery of, and demand for, care services. At this time of unprecedented circumstances, we acknowledge that there may be a rise in the number of children from Ukraine seeking to be placed into foster care and residential childcare arrangements. Due to the limited availability of foster carers, there is a need to augment the number of placements available. We would like to remind providers of our [guidance](#) on emergency relaxation of conditions of numbers.



[Children's Social Work Statistics published](#)

The Scottish Government has published Children's Social Work Statistics for Scotland for 2020 to 2021. The report shows that 14,946, or 1.5%, of all children in Scotland under 18-years-old were looked after or on the Child Protection Register as at 31 July 2021. Compared with 2020, there was an 8% decrease in the number of looked after children and a 20% decrease in the number of children on the Child Protection Register. The figures also show that 76 children, on average, were in secure care accommodation, 6 fewer than in 2020.

[Operational guidance for care experienced attainment funding published](#)

National operational guidance for care experienced children school attainment funding for 2022-2023 has been published by the Scottish Government. Local authorities have access to the fund, which aims to improve the educational outcomes for care experienced children and young people, supported by the strategic goals of The Promise and the Scottish Attainment Challenge.

[BBC article on woman's abuse as a teenager in Edinburgh secure care unit](#)

The experience of Holly Hamilton, a woman who was sexually abused in secure care in Edinburgh 16 years ago, is the subject of an article published by the BBC. The article follows recent [reports](#) that an investigation regarding allegations of physical and mental abuse in Edinburgh's secure units had been presented to councillors.

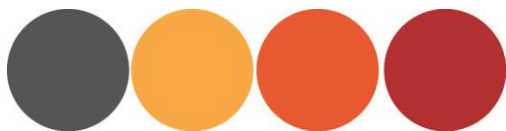
Workforce

[Change to SSSC fitness to practise thresholds](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has used feedback from stakeholders to inform changes and improvements to its fitness to practise thresholds guidance, policy and processes. It is hoped that the changes will help reduce the number of unnecessary referrals employers submit, as well as the number of referrals the SSSC receives, allowing it to focus its resources more effectively. As part of the changes, a new employer advice line has been launched to provide specialist support and advice to employers and higher education institutions.

[Report explores experiences of NQSWs during the pandemic](#)

New research on newly qualified social workers' (NQSWs) experiences of practice during the Covid-19 pandemic has been published by the SSSC. The report is designed to help NQSWs, employers and strategic leaders develop a shared understanding of the impact of Covid-19 and to consider future support required. The report links to an ongoing five-year longitudinal study commissioned by the SSSC on the experiences of NQSWs and draws on findings from a literature review, 124 responses to an online survey and 12 follow up interviews.



[SSSC publishes report on impact since 2001](#)

The SSSC has published a report on its impact since it was established in 2001. The report highlights key facts and figures from the SSSC's work over 20 years, and provides a snapshot of the workforce intelligence gained in that time to help policy makers, partners and workforce planners. The report also links to the new Data and Intelligence Strategy the SSSC is developing.

[Personal assistant survey launched](#)

The Scottish Government and Self-Directed Support Scotland have launched an annual Personal Assistant (PA) survey, with the opportunity for PAs to inform what work is required to support the PA workforce in Scotland. The survey will close on 30 April 2022.

Other Health and Social Care

[CCPS survey finds sustainability remains a challenge for services](#)

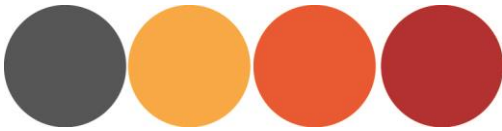
The Coalition of Care and Support Providers Scotland (CCPS) has published the findings of its annual business resilience survey. The survey provides an overview of how third sector social care and support providers are doing based on a series of measures relating to general levels of optimism, finance, procurement and contracting and workforce issues. The 2021 survey of 43 organisations found that the pandemic has had a big financial impact on the sector, with 70% of respondents noting increased costs as a result of the pandemic, with only a small increase in income (48% in 2021, compared to 43% in 2020). Half of all respondents had to temporarily close some of their services due to lockdown. Other concerns identified related to recruitment and retention issues.

[Scottish Parents Survey results published](#)

The results of surveys exploring the views of parents, on children's rights and play respectively, have been published by the Scottish Government. The surveys were conducted as part of the Scottish Parents' omnibus survey of 1,004 parents of children and young people aged 0-17 across Scotland, run by Ipsos MORI Scotland. [On rights](#), 32% of parents said they knew about the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), while 61% said they were not aware that the UNCRC is being incorporated into Scots Law. [On play](#), 57% of parents reported that their child played outside most or every day, while 48% said that local play park improvements would encourage children to play outside more.

[Iriss evidence review on approaches for young people with cancer and their families](#)

Iriss has published an evidence review on recommended approaches for psychosocial and family centred therapies to support young people with cancer and their families to deal with the long term effects of a cancer diagnosis. The review assesses a number of different techniques, such as family and sibling psychosocial support, digital interventions and animal assisted therapy.



[Playday - 3 August 2022](#)

The national day for play, Playday, will take place across the UK on 3 August 2022, Play Scotland has highlighted. The theme for this year's Playday is All to play for – building play opportunities for all children, designed to highlight that play is for everyone, happens everywhere every day, and is the right of every child and young person.

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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