



Covid-19 - General

[Legal requirement to wear face coverings to be lifted on 18 April](#)

The Scottish Government has confirmed that the legal requirement to wear face coverings in most indoor public spaces and public transport will become guidance from 18 April. The public are advised to carry on with sensible precautions to reduce the spread of the virus and face coverings are strongly recommended where appropriate such as indoor crowded spaces and on public transport. The Scottish Government has updated [guidance for hospitals, primary care and wider community](#), noting that the extended use of facemasks and/or face coverings will still be necessary in certain settings.

[Updated Covid-19 ventilation guidance](#)

Guidance on ventilation has been updated by the Scottish Government to reflect the current Covid-19 situation. The guidance notes that the provision of fresh air into indoor spaces is essential to prevent the spread of Covid-19 and consists of two parts; one providing guidance to support safe mixing of individuals in domestic, or home settings, and the other providing guidance for non-domestic, or commercial properties.

[Public Health Scotland now reporting updates on Covid-19 data](#)

The Scottish Government no longer provides updates on Covid-19 data, as of 11 April 2022. Public Health Scotland (PHS) has confirmed that all headline coronavirus data can now be found from the PHS Covid-19

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daily dashboard, which includes data on Covid-19 cases, hospitalisations, deaths and vaccinations, and neighbourhood and demographic breakdowns.

Carers

[Care Inspectorate unpaid carer inquiry launched](#)

A national inquiry into adult unpaid carers' experiences of social work and social care has been launched by the Care Inspectorate. We will talk to unpaid carers directly about how social work and social care services support them to maintain or improve their quality of life and support their ability to continue to care. From this work we will learn lessons about how the future support of carers can be developed and improved. We have launched a survey for unpaid carers to inform the inquiry. The survey will remain open until Friday 3 June.

[Latest estimation of 685,000 carers living in Scotland](#)

There are around 685,000 carers, including 30,000 young carers, living in Scotland according to the latest figures published by the Scottish Government. The estimates were produced using the Scottish Government's Scottish Health Survey and mid-year population estimates published by National Records of Scotland.

[Call for legal framework and single definition for kinship carers](#)

A family justice charity has launched a campaign calling for a "clear and simple legal framework" and single definition for kinship carers. The Family Rights Group argues that a universal definition would automatically "passport" kinship carers and their children to entitlement to a minimum level of support and services.

Child Protection

[Public protection guidance for safeguarding Ukrainian refugees](#)

The Scottish Government has published guidance for practitioners involved in the safeguarding of children and adults who are arriving in Scotland from Ukraine. The guidance sets out the current safeguarding challenges presented by the arrival of vulnerable children and adults from Ukraine, and outlines the approach to: identifying; supporting and maximising safety; the principles that should be applied and the legal frameworks underpinning practice. The guidance should be read in conjunction with [Super Sponsor Scheme and Homes for Ukraine: guidance for local authorities](#).

[CELCIS launches online resource supporting child refugees and their families](#)

An online resource to help support child refugees and their families has been launched by the Centre for Excellence for Children's Care and Protection (CELCIS). The new resource is designed to help people in Scotland working with and supporting children and families in professional, voluntary or personal capacity, and across Europe. Included in the resource is information on child protection and



safeguarding, supporting mental and physical wellbeing including trauma, and the needs of children who require care.

[Child protection trend data published by Scottish Government](#)

Child protection trend data for 2020 to 2021 has been published by the Scottish Government. The data is presented in a tool which compares and benchmarks statistics across local authority areas and with national figures for a range of indicators.

[Katharina Kasper appointed Chair of Children's Hearings Scotland](#)

Katharina Kasper has been appointed as the new Chair of Children's Hearings Scotland. Ms Kasper, who has a background in organisational transformation, risk management, and oversight and assurance, will take over the role from Garry Coutts who served as Chair for eight years.

[Coalition highlights risks of criminal exploitation for excluded children \(England\)](#)

A coalition of children's charities have written to the UK Government to highlight the ways in which school exclusions entrench child criminal exploitation (CCE). Led by Just for Kids Law, charities such as NSPCC and Barnardo's are seeking to draw attention to the how exclusion often makes children more vulnerable to CCE and the connection between exclusion from school and entry into the youth justice system.

Early Learning and Childcare

[Progress report on delivery of ELC expansion published](#)

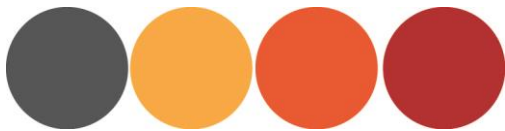
A progress report on delivery of the early learning and childcare (ELC) expansion has been published by the Scottish Government and the Improvement Service. According to the report, 111,574 children were accessing funded ELC as of the end of January 2022, while every council reported an increase between 6% and 26% in numbers of two to five year olds accessing funded ELC compared to August 2021. There has been an increase of 16% in the numbers of eligible twos accessing funded ELC, rising from 5,966 children in August 2021 to 6,913 in January 2022.

[Webinars on business support for childminders available to watch](#)

Webinars on business sustainability and support have been made available by the Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA). Earlier in the year, Business Gateway hosted a programme of webinars aimed at childminders covering areas such as financial management, digital, business growth and business development.

[Guidance for local authorities on summer holiday fund](#)

Guidance has been issued to local authorities and COSLA to help in planning for summer holiday food and childcare programmes. The guidance, shared by the Scottish Out of School Care Network, relates to the Scottish Government's funding



of £10m to enhance equity in holiday provision for children and families living in poverty who may experience barriers to accessing food, childcare and activities during the holidays.

[Early years market research organisation to close](#)

Ceeda, an independent market research for the early years and childcare sector across the UK, has announced it is to close on 1 May. According to [Nursery World](#), the organisation, founded in 1999, is to close as a result of a lack of funds.

Education

[Updated Covid-19 guidance for schools](#)

Updated guidance on reducing Covid-19 risks in schools has been published by the Scottish Government. The guidance is designed to support schools and local authorities in the delivery of education in light of the pandemic, and applies to all school settings, including special and residential.

Justice

[Consultation launched on revised National Strategy for Community Justice](#)

The Scottish Government has launched a consultation seeking views on key aspects of a revised National Strategy for Community Justice. The revised strategy will be accompanied by a delivery plan which is to contain tangible and time-limited actions to drive improvement nationally towards the aims set out in the strategy the Vision for Justice in Scotland. The consultation will close on 25 May 2022.

[CYCJ launches 'Thinking about Justice' online event](#)

The Children and Young People's Centre for Justice (CYCJ) is to host a launch event to share the findings of research which explored children's experiences and perceptions of, and aspirations for, justice in Scotland. The event will take place on 20 April and is free to attend.

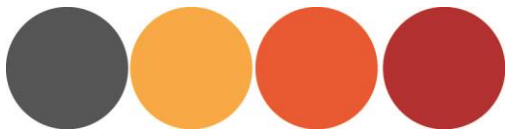
[CYCJ paper on what data exists in relation to children in conflict with the law](#)

A paper on what data exists in relation to has been published by the Children and Young People's Centre for Justice (CYCJ). The paper documents what data exists, where and when it is published, as well as providing the available data for the past five years.

Looked After and Accommodated Children

[Findings from Born into Care research published](#)

Research in relation to infants who enter the care system before they are a year old has been published by the Scottish Government. The Born into Care study, led by



Lancaster University and involving academics from the University of Stirling, was commissioned to explore the circumstances in which removal of babies shortly after birth takes place in Scotland, including the significance of pre-birth assessments, the work undertaken with parents to prevent separation where possible, and children's pathways and permanence outcomes. Among the key findings, the researchers highlight that although on the whole families were known to services before their birth, most infants were not placed with their older brothers and sisters. Two years later, only a third of children were living with a brother or sister.

[Ofsted study explores why children go into children's homes \(England\)](#)

A study looking at why children go into children's homes has been published by Ofsted. The report looks at the experiences of 113 children in care and found that their needs were very diverse, and there was usually more than one reason they were living in a children's home. Two thirds of the children in the study had entered a children's home because of some form of interruption in their previous care, including: foster placement breakdown (41%); children's home breakdown (15%); family breakdown (12%). The report calls for further research, including a national audit of children's needs, to provide better understanding of the experiences of children in care, and of the complexities of sufficiency in children's social care.

Mental Health

[Consultation launched on 10-year mental health and wellbeing plan \(England\)](#)

The Department of Health and Social Care has launched a discussion paper and call for views on a new 10-year mental health and wellbeing plan. The discussion paper has been informed by conversations with stakeholders, people with lived experiences and government departments. The call for views will close on 5 July.

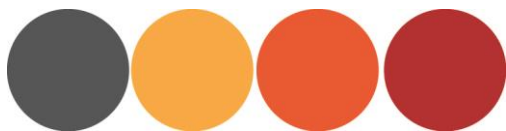
Play

[Scottish Government announces increased funding for free outdoor play activities](#)

The Scottish Government has announced £550,000 funding for the Outdoor Community Play Fund in 2022-23 to provide free outdoor play activities for children in deprived areas. The funding, which has increased by £50,000, will enable Inspiring Scotland to support up to 39 charities to provide outdoor play opportunities. The fund will also support four pilot projects providing outdoor play opportunities for children with additional support needs.

[Play Scotland to launch new intergenerational play toolkit](#)

Generations Working Together and Play Scotland are launching a new toolkit and training on intergenerational play and storytelling on 29 April. A free event to mark the launch will include a masterclass session from a professional storyteller.



Other Health and Social Care

[Care Inspectorate video on improvement in children and young people's services](#)

The Care Inspectorate has created a video to help children and young people's services learn how to run their own improvement projects using the Model for Improvement and Plan Do Study Act (PDSA) cycles. This includes specific examples relating to children and young people, and will also be helpful when progressing areas for improvement made as a result of inspection.

[NES to host knowledge sharing sessions for health and care staff](#)

Three taster sessions on Technology Enhanced Learning (TEL) have been scheduled by NHS Education for Scotland to support health and social care staff. The 60 minute sessions, to be hosted on Microsoft Teams and open to all staff in health and care, come on the back of the popularity of the TEL Knowledge Sharing Network.

[Quarterly Statistical Summary Report published](#)

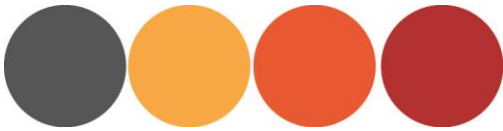
Our Statistical Summary Report for Quarter 4 of 2021/22 has been released. The quarterly report presents data on the number of registered care services, new registrations and cancellations, complaints about care services and quality theme grades all by care service type and or service sector.

[Iriss webinar on the role of technology in rural social work](#)

Iriss is to host a webinar exploring the role of technology in rural social work. Jane Pye, a lecturer in Social Work at the Department of Sociology at Lancaster University, will speak at the event, which takes place on 4 May.

[Report on children in poverty with no recourse to public funds](#)

A report on children in poverty with no recourse to public funds has been published by the Work and Pensions Committee at Westminster. The report calls for waiting times for parents with no recourse to public funds to be halved to five years to help children in deprivation, highlighting how many children suffer food poverty, homelessness or overcrowded homes as a result of long waiting periods.



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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