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Covid-19 - General

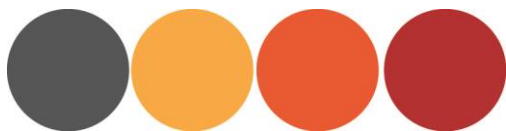
[Stay at home message to replace self-isolation](#)

The Scottish Government has confirmed that from Sunday 1 May public health advice will change to a stay at home message, which replaces self-isolation for people who have symptoms or have tested positive for Covid-19. People who have symptoms of Covid-19 and who have a fever or are too unwell to carry out normal activities will be asked to 'stay at home' while they are unwell or have a fever. They will no longer be advised to take a PCR test. [Guidance explaining the changes](#) has also been published.

[Updated guidance on face coverings in social care settings](#)

Updated guidance on face coverings in social care settings has been published by the Scottish Government. The guidance states that all health and social care staff and visiting professionals to social care settings should continue to follow infection prevention and control guidance. This includes the appropriate use of personal protective equipment (PPE). Visitors to an individual's own home, and supported housing settings, are not required to wear face coverings but are advised to use 'covid sense' in order to protect themselves and others.

The Scottish Government has also updated [Covid-19 guidance for unpaid carers](#), removing sections from Staying Safe to align with easing of protective measures.



[Call for inclusion of violence against women and girls in Covid inquiry remit](#)

The Social Justice and Security Committee has written to Honourable Lady Poole QC to ask that the scope of the Independent Covid-19 Inquiry in Scotland is expanded to include violence against women and girls. The Committee highlights “the disturbing trends with regards to violence against women and girls, alongside the differential impact on women that the restrictions had” and suggests the scope of the public inquiry should “include consideration of the effects of, and strategic response to, the increase in harm done to women and girls during the pandemic”.

[Scottish Government announces end of Highest Risk List](#)

The Scottish Government has announced the Highest Risk List, previously known as the Shielding List, will formally end on Tuesday 31 May. The decision comes after a [review of clinical evidence](#) showed that for the majority of those on the list the risk of hospitalisation or death from Covid-19 has been significantly reduced and is no greater than that of the general public.

Additional Support Needs

[Access All Arts Funding supports additional needs children to access the arts](#)

A £68,000 fund awarded through Creative Scotland’s Nurturing Talent Fund: New Routes has helped 106 children and young people with additional needs access the arts and unlock their creative potential, through the Access All Arts programme. The programme was established specifically to support children and young people with an additional support need or disability, a community who have experienced significant challenges during the pandemic. With the success of the first stage, the second phase of the project is being supported by Creative Scotland for 2022-23.

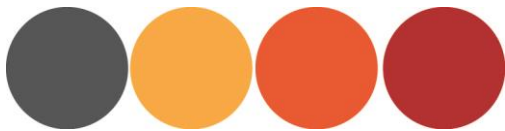
[New employability advisory group launched by DFN Project SEARCH](#)

DFN Project SEARCH, a transition to employment programme for young adults with a learning disability, has launched a Youth Advisory Group to help encourage more inclusive employment across the UK. The group provides a voice for young adults with a learning disability, on the autism spectrum or both, helping to share insights from their own perspectives on how business can be doing more to improve inclusivity.

Early Learning and Childcare

[Funding Follows the Child and National Standard timetable published](#)

The Scottish Government has issued the timetable for full implementation of Funding Follows the Child and the National Standard. Providers are currently subject to interim guidance which was published in March 2021. The decision by the Early Learning and Childcare Joint Delivery Board (JDB) is to continue with interim guidance for 2022/23 with minor changes:



- National Standard Criteria 8 (Fair Work) will take effect from August 2022-23
- National Standard Criteria 1.2 (benchmark qualification) will take effect for practitioners and managers working in settings from August 2022
- Local authorities will continue to have flexibility over National Standard Criteria 1.2 (benchmark qualification) for childminders.

[Examples from Out to Play Improvement programme](#)

The childcare sector can now access a virtual tour of over 100 examples of nature-based, child-led learning from across Scotland's Early Learning and Childcare sector. The examples show how early years and school age childcare settings responded over Spring 2021 when practitioners took part in the Scottish Government funded Virtual Nature School project. The Scottish Government's CYPIC (Children and Young People Improvement Collaborative) Out to Play Improvement programme ended in March.

[Early child development statistics published](#)

Early child development statistics have been published by Public Health Scotland. The report provides an update on children's development during the 13–15-month, 27-30 month, and four- and five-year child health reviews. The review ran from April 2020 to March 2021. The review highlighted a small increase in the proportion of children who had a developmental concern recorded at the 27–30-month review, from 14% in 2019/20 to 15% in 2020/21.

[Nursery World inspection survey results published \(England\)](#)

Nursery World has released the results of a survey on Ofsted inspections, with the majority of respondents highlighting negative experiences. Of the 162 nursery owners/managers that responded, 30% said they had been downgraded, with 74% of those believing the judgement was not fair.

Justice

[STARR wins Young Scot Community Award](#)

STARR, Scotland's only curated space for secure care experienced children, young people and adults, has won a Sunday Mail Young Scot Community Award. [STARR](#) aims to help inform, advise, challenge and change the pathways into, during, and after, secure care. Members use their own experiences to help inform, advise, challenge and change how secure care is done in Scotland, and ensure the upholding of children's rights for all.

[Youth Justice Board exploring alternatives to custody for young offenders \(England\)](#)

The Youth Justice Board (YJB) is working with London councils to establish a specialist supported accommodation programme as an alternative to placing young people in custody unnecessarily, reports Children and Young People Now. The YJB



hopes the pilot, set to run in 2023, will test the use of small units of supported accommodation with five or fewer children.

Looked After and Accommodated Children

[SCRA study on experiences of children living in residential care published](#)

The Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA) has published the findings of a study exploring the experiences of children aged 5-12 who are living in residential care. It focusses upon trying to understand the backgrounds of younger children who enter residential care, their journeys through the child protection system and what effect being cared for in residential care has upon their socioemotional wellbeing and mental health. The findings have been published in the latest issue of the [Scottish Journal of Residential Child Care](#). Two associated briefing documents on the findings are also available:

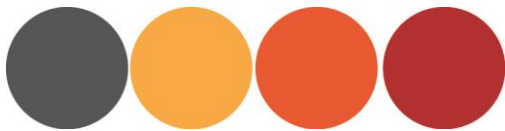
- [Characteristics of 5-12 year olds on compulsory supervision orders with residential care conditions](#)
- [Effects of residential childcare on the socioemotional and mental health of children aged 5-12 on compulsory supervision orders with residential care conditions](#)

[Love InC project final report published](#)

The results of Love InC, a partnership project consisting of Aberlour, Includum, CELCIS and the Care Inspectorate, have been published in a final report outlining the project's work, findings and key messages over the past three years. The project has explored how can we ensure that loving relationships are able to flourish for children and young people who experience care. The Health and Social Care Standard 3.10 states: As a child or young person I feel valued, loved and secure. Through carrying out participation work with children and young people, and insight and co-production activity with the workforce, three over-arching themes of vital importance emerged: Organisational values; Trust and transparency; and Time, space and flexibility.

[Charities call for UK Government to abandon Bill of Rights](#)

A group of 30 children's charities are calling for the UK Government to abandon their plans to replace the Human Rights Act with a Bill of Rights, reports Children and Young People Now. Charities have warned that the introduction of the Bill of Rights would significantly weaken children's human rights and the ability of children to hold government and public bodies to account in cases where their rights had been infringed.



Mental Health

[Youth Advisory Group launched as part of Scotland's Suicide Prevention Action Plan](#)

Scotland's National Suicide Prevention Leadership Group (NSPLG) is launching a youth advisory group to inform and improve policy from the perspective of those with lived experience, reports Children in Scotland. NSPLG, established by the Scottish Government and COSLA, brings together people with lived experience of suicide alongside, academic, professional third sector, and statutory partners to support the delivery of Scotland's Suicide Prevention Action Plan: [Every Life Matters](#).

Other Health and Social Care

[New five-year strategy published by Ofsted \(England\)](#)

Ofsted has published its new five-year strategy. The strategy sets out how Ofsted will continue its work to improve the lives of children and young people, stating that Ofsted will use research and insight to support young children's physical, social and wider development, increase training for the inspection workforce and promote a better understanding of early education and care in support of positive change. The inspectorate says it will review its children's social care inspections "in light of the recommendations of the independent care review", which are expected to be published in late May or early June.

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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