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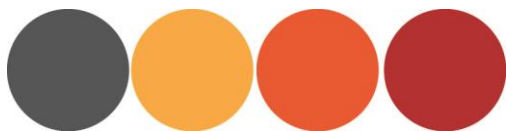
Covid-19 - General

[Proposed changes to UK Covid inquiry terms of reference](#)

The Chair of the UK Covid-19 Public Inquiry has written to the Prime Minister with proposed changes to the inquiry's terms of reference. Following a four-week consultation, Baroness Hallett has asked the Prime Minister to expand the terms of reference to include:

- children and young people, including impact on health, wellbeing and social care education and early years provision
- impacts on mental health and wellbeing
- collaboration between central government, devolved administrations, local authorities and the voluntary and community sector.

Baroness Hallett has also recommended that the terms of reference be reframed to put inequalities at its forefront.



[Coronavirus \(Recovery and Reform\) \(Scotland\) Bill passed at Stage 1](#)

Legislation designed to embed measures that have demonstrated their value during the pandemic and to counter future public health threats has been passed by MSPs at Stage 1 of the parliamentary process. Measures in the Coronavirus (Recovery and Reform) (Scotland) Bill include permanent provision for the Care Inspectorate to send formal notices to registered care service providers by electronic means. The Bill will now move to Stage 2.

[PPE distribution statistics will no longer be updated](#)

The Scottish Government has announced that due to the stable stock position of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and the reduced number of queries regarding PPE supply, monthly updates on PPE distribution statistics will no longer be published.

Child Protection

[Peer-on-peer sexual abuse increase reported](#)

NSPCC has reported an increase on peer-on-peer sexual abuse and young people experiencing harmful sexual behaviour. It was reported that in 2021 there were 2,365 child welfare contacts made to the NSPCC helpline across the UK, a 29% increase from the year before. The NSPCC 'How Safe?' conference addressed this increase and ran between the 11-12 May 2022. Recordings of the conference are available to be viewed online.

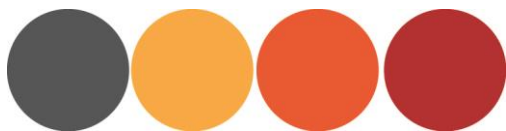
[Scottish Government responds to SASW on supporting Ukraine response effort](#)

The Scottish Government has written to the Scottish Association of Social Workers (SASW) on work to scope the potential costs associated with providing a public protection response for Ukrainian families arriving in Scotland. The Minister with Special Responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine, Neil Gray, said the Scottish Government remains in close contact with local authorities on the support which the Scottish Government can offer and has also invited SASW to join a working group to explore the options and challenges for children arriving from Ukraine.

Disability

[Consultation on proposed Bill to establish a disability commissioner in Scotland](#)

A consultation has been launched on a proposed Bill that would establish a Disability Commissioner in Scotland. Conservative MSP Jeremy Balfour is seeking views on a proposed Disability Commissioner (Scotland) Bill, which would establish a Disability Commissioner following a similar model as the Children and Young People Commissioner that was established in 2004. The Commissioner would be the first port of call for people with a disability who face issues that cut across a number of policy areas and require a number of actions. The consultation closes on 3 August.



Early Learning and Childcare

[SCLD launches ELC report](#)

The Scottish Commission for People with Learning Disabilities (SCLD) has launched a report into early learning provision for children with learning disabilities. *Building Blocks: Exploring the barriers and facilitators to Early Learning and childcare for children with learning disabilities in Scotland*, draws on interviews with parents and guardians and finds an “overall picture where, despite the best of intentions, we are not getting it right for every child”. The report makes a number of recommendations to support children with learning disabilities to reach their full learning potential.

[Childminding Week 9 - 15 May 2022](#)

Childminding Week 2022, hosted by the Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA), is ongoing and continues until 15 May. Childminding Week celebrates the influential role that childminders play and the positive impact they have on children and families. SCMA believes it is vitally important that childminders are more widely recognised as a valuable part of the professional childcare workforce.

[Week of Play will run from 13-19 June](#)

The Early Years Alliance’s National Week of Play, targeted at both those working in the sector and parents, will run from 13-19 June. The theme will focus on eco-sustainability and opening children’s eyes to the wonders of the natural world, hopefully encouraging them to protect it. There will be a number of activities taking place throughout the week, including podcasts, resources and a competition to win a modular mud kitchen. Providers and parents are welcome to join the events.

[EYS Annual National Conference 3 September](#)

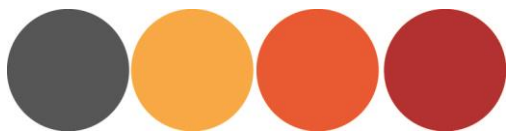
Early Years Scotland’s Annual National Conference will be held in person for the first time since 2019 on 3 September 2022. This year’s event ‘Diversity and Distinction in Early Learning and Childcare’ will be held in Glasgow and will offer both online and in person attendance.

Education

[Attainment gap data consultation launched](#)

The Scottish Government has opened a consultation seeking views on improving the collection of education data to assess progress towards closing the poverty-related attainment gap. The consultation, closing on 18 July, focuses on how to ensure:

- the key measures to assess progress in closing the poverty-related attainment gap reflect the wider ambitions of the curriculum



- the value of the wider data for improvement purposes, including the range of data needed by schools and education authorities in order to fulfil their different requirements.

[Scottish Learning Festival theme announced](#)

Education Scotland has announced the theme for this year's Scottish Learning Festival (SLF). With a theme of 'Being Me, Being Us: Placing learners at the heart of Scottish Education', the festival will run from 21-22 September. It will be a mixture of physical events as well as virtual ones, all streamed on the SLF portal so everyone can join in. Plans are underway to run keynotes and around 70 seminars over two days as part of the conference programme.

Justice

[Project with young offenders shortlisted for a Scottish Charity award](#)

Inside Out (a project supported by Youth Justice Voices and Barnardo's Scotland: Outside In HMP&YOI Polmont) has been recognised as a Scottish Charity Awards finalist in the Pioneering Project category. The project works with care experienced young boys and men in HMP&YOI Polmont to amplify their voices and bring about system, policy and practice change.

Looked After and Accommodated Children

[Campaign to make care-experienced a protected characteristic](#)

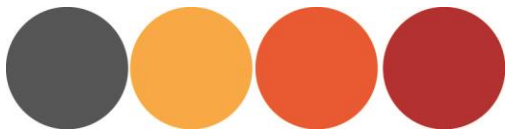
Councillors are backing a campaign to make care-experienced a protected characteristic in law across the UK, reports Children and Young People Now. Ahead of the local elections over 105 candidates pledged to propose a motion urging Care Review chair Josh MacAlister to recommend to the government that care experience becomes a protected characteristic. This would mean that care-experienced people would be protected from certain types of discrimination under the Equality Act 2010.

[New protocol launched for kinship carers in Scotland](#)

Social Work Scotland has produced a framework which clarifies the legal duties of responsible authorities and confirms a common understanding and approach to supporting kinship carers. It is hoped the Kinship Care Protocol, the first of its kind and endorsed by the Kinship Care Collaborative, will bring more consistency of practice and support for kinship carers and provide a model for nationwide improvement.

[Foster Care Fortnight](#)

Foster Care Fortnight is ongoing and continues until 22 May, delivered by the Fostering Network. The theme this year is 'fostering communities', with the Fostering Network running events and posting on social media to highlight the efforts of the fostering community.



[Promoting wellbeing and positive identity for children and young people \(England\)](#)

A guide has been published for social workers and social care practitioners on providing wellbeing and positive identity support for looked after and accommodated children and young people. The guide highlights the importance of enabling a strong sense of identity, positive relationships, and an understanding of early experiences.

Mental Health

[Mental Health Awareness Week 9-15 May](#)

Mental Health Awareness Week is ongoing and continues until 15 May. Hosted by the Mental Health Foundation, this year the campaign is raising awareness of the impact of loneliness on mental health with one in four adults feeling lonely some or all of the time. The Foundation hopes to give people practical steps that can be taken to address loneliness.

[SASW highlights impact of pressures on social worker mental health](#)

The Scottish Association of Social Workers (SASW) has highlighted a meeting with Social Care Minister Kevin Stewart in response to recent surveys showing the impact pressures are having on the mental health of social workers. According to SASW, Mr Stewart made clear that the Scottish Government intended to act urgently on this matter and not wait until the establishment of the National Care Service. Mr Stewart highlighted his key priorities are to grow the workforce and provide more autonomy for social workers.

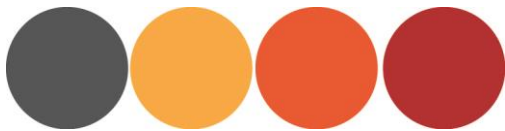
[Committee publishes findings from inquiry on children's health and wellbeing](#)

The Health, Social Care and Sport Committee at the Scottish Parliament has published a report following its inquiry on the health and wellbeing of children and young people. The Committee has detailed a range of themes which inform its recommendations, including: improvements for physical health, sexual and reproductive health, the mental health workforce, stigma and discrimination, eating disorders, evaluating the impact of poverty, young carers, adverse childhood experiences, care experienced young people, additional support needs and data.

Other Health and Social Care

[Care Inspectorate Corporate Plan 2022-25 published](#)

Our Corporate Plan sets out our vision, the outcomes we want to achieve and our priorities for the next three years. It is informed by all we learned during the pandemic, and by the scrutiny, assurance, quality improvement work and partnership working we have done over the last three years. We carried out extensive consultation with our staff, our volunteers, providers, partnerships and people who experience care, to shape a Plan that puts people at the heart of all we do with key priorities that are ambitious but achievable.



[CCPS announces new Chief Executive](#)

The Coalition of Care and Support Providers (CCPS) has announced that Rachel Cackett will be joining the organisation as its new Chief Executive in July. Ms Cackett, Executive Director in Scotland for Samaritans since January 2020, will take up the role after Annie Gunner Logan stepped down after 24 years of service.

[Health and care experience survey results have been published](#)

The Scottish Government has published the results of the health and care experience survey 2021/22. The survey asked about people's experiences of accessing and using GP practices and other local healthcare services, receiving care, support and help with everyday living, and caring responsibilities. The report notes that 10% of respondents said that they had received some form of support for everyday living in the last 12 months and 3% said that they had not received any support but felt they needed it. The report also noted that most of those who said they needed help with everyday living said they or their family funded this, or they received unpaid care from friends and family carers.

[Specialist leadership development programme launched](#)

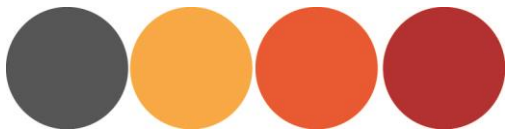
A new specialist leadership development programme for senior leaders working within social care, social work and health has been launched by Project Life. Supported by the Scottish Government, the programme is inviting sponsored applications for cohort one between now and 13 June and will run between September 2022 and May 2023.

[Integration authorities budget information for 2022-23](#)

Information on the budgets of integration authorities over the coming year has been published by Health and Social Care Scotland. The information is accurate as at 29 April 2022.

[Young Person's Guarantee funding increase](#)

The Scottish Government has announced an additional £4 million to be granted to the Young Person's Guarantee to help young people, aged 16 – 24, struggling to access employment. It will help young people impacted most by the pandemic, including those who are care-experienced as well as those who suffer from mental health issues. Three programmes will share the additional funding, which will connect people with employers, training and volunteering options.

**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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