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## Covid-19 - General

### [Coronavirus Acts report](#)

The Scottish Government has published the thirteenth two-monthly report on the Coronavirus Acts. These reports set out the status and operation of the legislation necessary to respond to the pandemic. Restrictions and legal requirements have been removed since the last report, and with progress in vaccination and treatments, mean that the Scottish Government intends to rely less on legal requirements.

### [Academic research published as part of Covid public inquiry](#)

The Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry has published introductory academic research commissioned as part of a scoping exercise to determine the direction of its investigation. One of the portfolios has five research reports examining the provision of health and social care services.

- Scottish Care is to host a [webinar](#) on the Inquiry and the care sector on 23 June, including a presentation from Brodies LLP Solicitors.



### [Latest state of the Covid epidemic report published](#)

The Scottish Government has published its latest state of the epidemic report summarising current data on Covid-19 at a national and local level, and how Scotland currently compares to the rest of the UK. The report includes information about the vaccination programme and variants of concerns.

### [Report on Covid spending](#)

Audit Scotland has published a report on 'Scotland's financial response to Covid-19', noting that the Scottish Government moved at pace to respond financially to the pandemic but there is a need for clarity on how one-off Covid funding is being spent and what impact it has had.

## **Child Protection**

### [Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry newsletter](#)

The Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry has published its spring/summer 2022 newsletter, providing an update on their work.

## **Early Learning and Childcare**

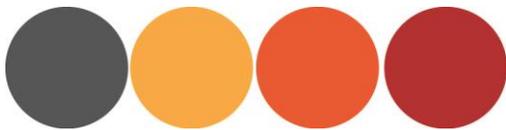
### [Residential child care workforce](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has published data on the residential child care workforce and the number of looked after children for 2010 to 2020. Key findings include an increase of 16% in the overall residential child care workforce, a decrease of 3% of the number of children and young people in some form of residential care, and an increase in the number of residential child care services. Actions identified for the SSSC in their report include more detailed analyses of residential child care workforce data and exploring standardising definitions and collaborating on reports with the Scottish Government and the Care Inspectorate.

## **Education**

### [Reform of education](#)

In a statement to the Scottish Parliament, the Scottish Government's Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills Shirley-Anne Somerville MSP, provided an update on education reform, including a forthcoming national discussion on the vision for Scottish education. MS Somerville also welcomed Professor Muir's recommendation that there should be a shared inspection framework for early learning and childcare settings, which will be developed by the Care Inspectorate and the new education inspectorate, with specific proposals to be brought forward and a programme of engagement over the summer and autumn.



### [Use of physical restraint in schools](#)

The BBC have reported on draft proposals for new guidelines on the use of physical restraint in schools. The article discusses the Scottish Government working group on physical intervention, use of face-down “prone” restraint, and the reported impact of seclusion and restraint.

### [Annual report from Education Committee](#)

The Scottish Parliament’s Education, Children and Young People Committee has published its annual report for 2021 – 2022. The report provides a summary of the key activities undertaken, including stakeholder engagement, visits, reports and evidence taken.

### [Proposals for joint inspection framework for children with SEND](#) (England)

Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) have launched a consultation on proposals for a new joint framework for inspecting provision for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) within a local area. The new framework will focus on the experiences and outcomes of children and young people with SEND, and new inspections will be introduced in early 2023. The proposals broaden the focus of inspection to look not only at whether local area partnerships are identifying and meeting the needs of children and young people with SEND, but also to assess the impact on their lives and outcomes.

## **Health**

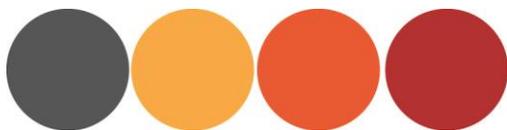
### [Debate on health and wellbeing of children](#)

The Scottish Parliament has held a Health, Social Care and Sport Committee debate on the health and wellbeing of children and young people. The Committee’s inquiry considered issues such as adverse childhood experiences, care-experienced young people, and early intervention. Contributions from MSPs during the debate covered mental health services and workforce, poverty, The Promise, impact of Covid-19, physical activity, body image and eating disorders, marginalised groups, and sexual harassment.

## **Justice**

### [Guidance on child interview rights](#)

The Scottish Government has published practitioners’ guidance on child interview rights in relation to the Age of Criminal Responsibility (Scotland) Act 2019. Investigative interviews under the Age of Criminal Responsibility (Scotland) Act 2019 are intended for only the most serious cases, and only when interviews are necessary to properly investigate a child’s behaviour and the circumstances surrounding it. When the behaviour being investigated relates to when the child was under 12 years of age, the child will have the right to a child interview rights



practitioner (ChIRP), even if they are over the age of 12 by the time the interview takes place.

## **Looked After and Accommodated Children**

### [Children's Reporter work on Keeping The Promise](#)

The Scottish Children's Reporter Association (SCRA) is highlighting the ongoing work they are doing to Keep The Promise and their planned activity during 2022/2023.

## **Play**

### [International Play Conference \(6 – 9 June 2023\)](#)

Play Scotland is on the steering group for the International Play Conference, which is to be held on 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> June 2023 in Glasgow. The conference theme is Play: Rights and Responsibilities, bringing together dedicated play researchers, advocates, designers, practitioners, providers and policymakers from around the globe to celebrate play, understand its many benefits and provide all children with the chance to engage in rich, meaningful, free play.

## **Other Health and Social Care**

### [Forum for workforce planning](#)

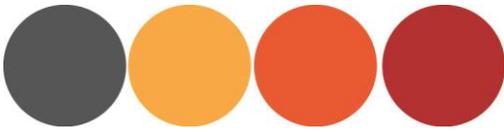
The Care Inspectorate are publicising a new community of interest network created by the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC), supported by Scottish Care, COSLA and CCPS, for individuals with a role, responsibility or interest in workforce issues throughout the social care sector in Scotland. The aim is to provide a forum for sharing information on workforce related developments and events within the sector, to provide a platform for individuals to express views and initiate discussion on topics of interest and for the sharing of best practice throughout the Scottish social services sector.

### [Supporting the use of digital technology](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has updated their resource '23 Things Digital' to support practice and learning in digital technology in social and health services. The resource will also allow people to gain up to 23 Open Badges as recognition of the learning.

### [Social Care Worker Death in Service Payment Scheme](#)

An update on the Scottish Government's Social Care Worker Death in Service Payment Scheme has been highlighted by the Scottish Social Services Council. The scheme provides a one-off payment of £60,000 to a named survivor of a social care worker who has died in service as a result of, or the suspected result of, contracting Covid-19 at work. The scheme will make payments for eligible claims in respect of



deaths between 17 March 2020 and 30 June 2022. Claims can be submitted until 30 June 2023.

### **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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