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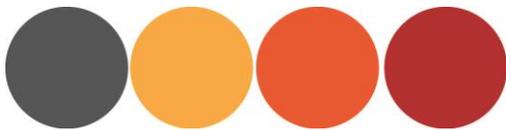
Covid-19 - General

[Spring booster reminder](#)

The Scottish Government is urging all eligible groups, including those aged over 12 who are immunosuppressed, to book an appointment for their spring Covid-19 booster. Anyone in an eligible group who has not yet come forward can book online or call the national vaccination helpline, with some health boards also operating drop-in clinics. Clinics will be operating until 30 June.

[New course on supporting children and young people post-covid](#)

The University of Glasgow has launched a free online course to explore ways to support children and young people post-pandemic. The course brings together expertise and experience from across the University's School of Education to help address some of the most common issues around young people's emotional wellbeing since the pandemic. It will consist of short videos, readings, discussion tasks and opportunities to reflect.



Early Learning and Childcare

[Early Learning and Childcare monthly update published](#)

The Scottish Government has published the Early Learning and Childcare expansion monthly update for June. There are updates on topics including: Quality and inspection along with new targets to support this year's targeted summer holiday offer; publication of policy overview and workforce documents by the end of 2022; and professional learning. This is the final update before the format is refreshed after the summer.

[#WeAreEducators early years campaign launches](#)

The Alliance has launched a #WeAreEducators campaign that recognises those working in early years as educational professionals. The campaign aims to help those working in the early years sector to highlight to parents, local communities and policymakers the unique importance of the early years and the role the workforce plays in shaping children's lives.

[ICP Education acquires two new Scottish nurseries](#)

ICP Education has acquired the Scottish Children's Hour Nursery chain of two settings, Nursery World reports in an article about the continued expansion of the UK's top 10 largest nursery groups. This brings ICP nursery total to 11 in Scotland and 68 across the UK.

[NDNA launches campaign to raise the profile of early years](#)

A campaign to promote the early years sector and its workforce is being launched by the National Day Nurseries Association (NDNA), reports Nursery World. The 'First Five Years Count' campaign will be launched at the NDNA's annual conference on 24 June. The year-long campaign will promote the work that goes on in nurseries and other early year settings to support children's development.

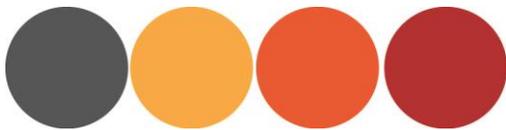
[Royal Foundation publishes early years report \(England\)](#)

The Royal Foundation, which aims to drive awareness of and action on the impact of the early years, has published research based on a survey of 4,682 adults and over 1,000 interviews with parents of children aged 0-5. The research highlights that although nine in ten agree the early years are important in shaping a person's future, less than a fifth (17%) recognised the unique importance of the zero-five period.

Education

[Consultation on draft guidance on reducing the use of restraint in schools](#)

The Scottish Government has launched a consultation on draft guidance on the use of restraint in schools. Produced in response to concerns raised about the use of restraint and seclusion in schools in a 2018 report by the Children and Young



People's Commissioner, the draft guidance includes new definitions, human rights-based safeguards and recording, reporting and monitoring expectations. The draft guidance is focussed on protecting children and young people from harm and promoting rights-based practice in Scottish schools. The advice offered aligns with international and domestic law and standards, including the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), the Human Rights Act 1998 and the Equality Act 2010.

[Education Scotland to host Creative Conversation webinar families](#)

Education Scotland is hosting a Creative Conversation webinar on 27 June for practitioners and staff who are involved in supporting children and families. The session will highlight a free summer resource pack for families produced by Fathers Network Scotland, Children's Parliament, and the Scottish Book Trust.

[Interactions, Experiences and Spaces project for the Scottish Learning Festival](#)

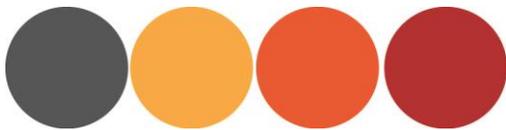
Education Scotland has announced a new project for the Scottish Learning Festival, inviting educators to create and share content with a focus on pedagogy. The Interactions, Experiences and Spaces project aims to highlight grassroots professional practice and pedagogy by exploring the interactions had between learners, the learning experiences that take place and the diverse spaces in which these happen. The Scottish Learning Festival will run over 21 and 22 September.

[SCMA expresses disappointment on ELC Cost Collection Survey](#)

The Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) has expressed its disappointment after two questions it suggested for the ELC Cost Collection Survey were not included. The SCMA was approached by COSLA and the Improvement Service to contribute to and inform a childminding-specific survey aimed at capturing up-to-date data on the costs of delivering services from childminders involved in delivering funded ELC. SCMA suggested two topics (relating to hidden costs for childminders and the number of funded hours childminders receive from local authorities) and argued the survey data would be "incomplete" without their inclusion.

[Early Childhood Inequalities report published](#)

Inequalities in early cognitive, social and emotional development of children in the UK have remained "stubbornly high", according to a new report from the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS). The IFS research compares children born in the early 2000s to those born a decade later, with results showing little change to gaps in development between the children of high and low-educated mothers, and between children living in more and less deprived areas.



Health

[Report on learning from the experiences of bereaved families and carers](#)

A report has been published exploring the experiences of bereaved families and carers following a review into the death of their child. Produced by the National Hub for Reviewing and Learning from the Deaths of Children and Young People, a collaboration between Healthcare Improvement Scotland and the Care Inspectorate, the report highlights the vital importance of learning from child deaths and keeping the voices of families and carers front and centre in order to gain invaluable insights into what went wrong and where improvements must be made to prevent potentially avoidable deaths of children and young people. The report makes eight recommendations to NHS boards, local authorities, public protection committees, third sector organisations and the National Hub to help improve the review process for families and carers.

[Parents urged to get children vaccinated against Polio \(England\)](#)

Parents of young children are being encouraged to check their child's immunisations are up to date following the detection of the Polio virus in sewage in London. Nursery World reports that the message comes after the UK Health Safety Agency, working with the Medicines & Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency, found poliovirus in sewage samples collected from the London Beckton Sewage Treatment Works.

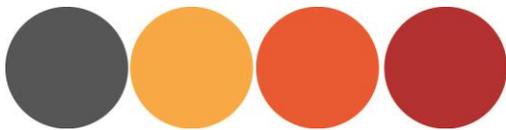
Justice

[CYCJ publishes Children's Care and Justice Bill consultation response](#)

In its response to the Children's Care and Justice (Scotland) Bill consultation, the Children and Young People's Centre for Justice (CYCJ) has called for reforms in how Scotland responds to children and young people who come into conflict with the law, or who are at risk of doing so. Areas of focus in the response include advocating for greater powers for the Children's Hearing System; reforms to the court arena; increased use of Restorative Justice; and addressing the underlying factors – such as trauma and adversity – which precipitate contact with the justice system.

[CYCJ launches revised guidance on children on conflict with the law](#)

The Children and Young People's Centre for Justice (CYCJ) has published a new guide to youth justice in Scotland. The CYCJ resource has 16 sections covering a wide variety of themes, including children's rights; risk management; mental health; diversity; restorative justice; adversity and trauma; and Diversion from Prosecution (new for 2022). It is aimed at practitioners and managers who work with children and young people who offend, or who are at risk of offending. The resource can also be used by academics, educators, and anyone else with an interest in youth and criminal justice.



[SCRA report on young offenders published](#)

The Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA), in conjunction with the Scottish Government, has produced a new research report, 'Children aged 12 to 15 years involved in offending and referred to the Children's Reporter and Procurator Fiscal in Scotland'. The research examines 400 children and was carried out to provide evidence on offending by children aged 12 to 15 years to inform the considerations of the Scottish Government's Age of Criminal Responsibility (ACR) Advisory Group on a future ACR in Scotland.

[National Deprivation of Liberty court to deal with child cases \(England\)](#)

Sir Andrew McFarlane, president of the Family Division, has announced that a national Deprivation of Liberty Court will deal with all new cases involving children from 4 July, reports Children and Young People Now. This is a direct response to the increase in deprivation of liberty applications involving children from 108 to 579 per year since 2018. The new court will be based at the Royal Court of Justice under the leadership of Mr Justice Moore. It has also been announced that Nuffield Family Justice Observatory will regularly collect and publish data from the court.

Looked After and Accommodated Children

[SIRCC annual conference call for participation](#)

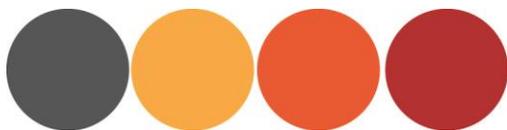
The Scottish Institute for Residential Child Care (SIRCC) is holding its annual conference on 9 – 10 November, with the theme being resilience and recovery in residential childcare. SIRCC is looking for contributions from people and teams who can share perspectives on key areas such as: Supporting and leading change, Organisations and practice, Children's rights and advocacy and Using creativity in practice. Closing date for applications is Friday 12 August.

[Brothers and sisters connected and together: call for good practice examples](#)

The Care Inspectorate is collating good practice examples of brothers and sisters staying together and connected. We would like to invite you to share with us your case study examples of how you are doing this well, for consideration. We are particularly interested in examples that:

- ensure brothers and sisters spend quality time together, having fun such as sleepovers and holidays
- support brothers and sisters to rebuild and develop their relationships
- show the positive difference residential workers make to these relationships, in ensuring brothers and sisters have enduring lifelong relationships.

If you would like us to consider your example for possible inclusion, please send one paragraph evidencing how your service meets one (or more) of the above criteria to Mary.Morris@careinspectorate.gov.scot



[Care experienced parents' report calls for change](#)

Who Cares? Scotland has published a report detailing findings from care experienced parents as part of the charity's annual participation programme. Care experienced parents shared their opinions on the support they received during their parenting journey, as well as ideas for positive changes they would like to see in Scotland. The report highlights that only 37% of respondents felt they were able to get the support that they needed, with many care experienced parents feeling the impact of stigma and discrimination. The report offers 11 recommendations for change.

[Homes for Ukraine scheme processing applications for unaccompanied children](#)

The UK Government has announced the Homes for Ukraine scheme will allow children and minors under the age of 18 who have already applied through the Homes for Ukraine Scheme to come to the UK without a parent or guardian. The changes will enable a child to apply for a visa if they have proof of parental consent, which must be certified by a Ukraine Government-approved authority. This policy will initially apply to the 1,000 children who have already applied but are unable to travel as they are not travelling or reuniting with a parent or guardian. Extensive sponsor checks will also be carried out by local authorities and sponsors will be asked to commit to hosting for up to three years in recognition of the need to give children security.

[Charity urges creation of National Adoption Contact Centre](#)

Adoption UK is calling for the creation of free national contact services across the UK for adopted people looking for their birth families, reports Children and Young People Now. Adoption UK's annual [Adoption Barometer](#) found that just 17% of adopted adults surveyed had received professional support to help with birth family contact.

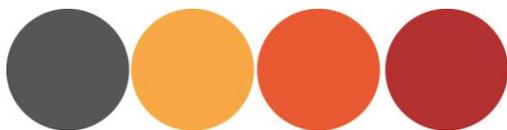
[Ofsted launches consultation on care leavers inspection judgement \(England\)](#)

Ofsted has launched a consultation on proposals for a new judgement on the experiences and progress of care leavers, which will be included in its local authority children's services inspection framework. The consultation closes on Friday 29 July.

Play

[International Play conference 2023](#)

Play Scotland has announced the International Play Association (IPA) Conference will take place in Glasgow from Tuesday 6 to Friday 9 June 2023. The IPA's 22nd conference will follow the theme of Play: Rights & Responsibilities, with five sub themes running throughout the week.



Workforce

[New SSSC Open Badges for online safety and security](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has announced the creation of eight new online safety and security Open Badges. These are for anyone working in social work, social care and early years to help keep themselves, their organisation and people using their services safe and secure online.

[Social Care Staff Support Fund extended to end of September](#)

The Scottish Government has announced that the active period for the Social Care Staff Support Fund has been extended to 30 September 2022. The Fund was created to ensure that social care workers do not experience financial hardship if they are unwell or self-isolating due to Covid-19.

Other Health and Social Care

[National Care Service \(Scotland\) Bill published](#)

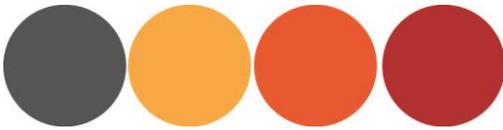
The Scottish Government has introduced the National Care Service (Scotland) Bill, which will transfer social care responsibility from local authorities to a new, National Care Service (NCS). This could include adult and children's services, as well as areas such as justice social work, but the Scottish Government would need to consult with the public before transferring responsibilities relating to children's services or justice social work to the new NCS.

[Scottish Government responds to UK Bill of Rights](#)

The Scottish Government has responded to the UK Government's proposed Bill of Rights, raising concerns around the removal of safeguarding checks and balances. Equalities Minister Christina McKelvie highlighted that the Scottish Parliament would have to agree to any changes affecting the devolution settlement.

[Charities respond to the Scottish Government's Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan](#)

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) and Save the Children have responded to the Scottish Government's second Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan. Almost 50 recommendations were made by the charities aimed at ensuring action does not fall short of ambition. Recommendations include increasing the Scottish Child Payment by above inflation in 2023/24 to ensure the interim targets are met and to help ease the cost of living for families, moving employment opportunities closer to parents, improving mental health services and increasing good housing.



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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