



## Covid-19 - General

### [UK Covid-19 Inquiry officially launched](#)

The UK Covid-19 Inquiry has been officially launched, with the final [terms of reference](#) and a new website published. The Inquiry will examine, consider and report on preparations and the response to the pandemic in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, up to and including the Inquiry's formal setting-up date, 28 June 2022. The Inquiry will set out publicly how it intends to minimise duplication and will liaise with any devolved inquiry before it investigates any matter which is also within that inquiry's scope. Areas to be covered include management of the pandemic in health and social care and the public health response, which includes impact on children and young people, education and the early years.

### [Covid Recovery and Reform Bill passed by MSPs](#)

A Bill to embed some of the reforms necessitated by the pandemic has been passed by MSPs in the Scottish Parliament. The Coronavirus (Recovery and Reform) (Scotland) Bill is designed to make permanent those reforms that “though necessitated by the pandemic, have delivered improvements to service users and efficiencies, and to help build resilience against future public health threats”. As well as a number of new ministerial powers around the response to public health emergencies, the Bill amends the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010 to embed those powers given to the Care Inspectorate during the pandemic to enable the electronic sending of formal notices.

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## Child Protection

### [SCRA publishes Official Statistics for 2021/22](#)

The Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA) has published its Official Statistics for 2021/22. Among the key statistics, 10,494 children and young people in Scotland were referred to the Children's Reporter, representing 1.1% of all children and young people in Scotland. The majority of children and young people were referred due to concerns about them, with lack of parental care the most common ground (reason) assigned by Reporters. This ground is more commonly assigned to children in the first year of their life than any other age.

### [Evaluation of Risk of Online Sexual Abuse Project published](#)

An independent evaluation of a project exploring technology-assisted harmful sexual behaviour (TA-HSB) among children and young people has been published by the Children and Young People's Centre for Justice (CYCJ). Between 2018 and 2021, Stop It Now! Scotland piloted Risk of Online Sexual Abuse (ROSA), an action research project based in Glasgow which set out to undertake and evaluate a one-to-one psychoeducational programme for children aged 10 to 18 who have exhibited TA-HSB. The CYCJ report describes the work of the Project and summarises the findings of the independent evaluation.

## Early Learning and Childcare

### [Free summer community play programme launched](#)

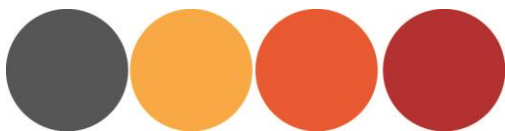
Early Years Scotland and Care and Learning Alliance have teamed up to create a programme of free community play sessions across Scotland for parents, babies, and toddlers this summer. Held in parks and other outdoor venues, the events will support the wellbeing of very young children (under 5s) and their families with a particular focus on early speech and language acquisition. Those who have signed up in advance will get a 'play pack' of resources along with top tips and heuristic play ideas, as well as localised information about other support and activities in their area.

### [Kids Planet launches graduate training scheme](#)

One of the UK's largest nursery groups is to launch a new graduate training scheme. The Kids Planet programme is aimed at new graduates who want to begin a career in the early years and will provide 30 places initially from September. Trainees will be employed in one of the provider's 120 nurseries, while the course will be delivered by the Best Practice Network. A virtual event on the programme will take place on 7 July.

### [Summer support for children announced](#)

The Scottish Government has announced free activities, childcare and food to help with the cost of living for children though the summer holidays. Available to children



and young people aged five to 14 years old who need it most, the funding has been allocated to local authorities to supplement existing holiday programmes or to develop new ones as part of a £10 million summer programme.

## Education

### [School pupils 'inspecting the inspectors' in film about Ofsted \(England\)](#)

A group of sixth-form pupils in east London have made a film in which they interview pupils, teachers and former inspectors about Ofsted, The Guardian reports. The pupils have collected their findings over the past three years and are finalising details of an [alternative inspection regime](#) they believe would be more effective.

## Health

### [Baby Box refreshed to mark anniversary](#)

The Baby Box has had a redesign and its contents refreshed to mark the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the scheme. An estimated 222,450 boxes, which now include updated clothing designs and a baby toothbrush, have been distributed since the scheme began in August 2017.

## Justice

### [Revised National Strategy for Community Justice published by Scottish Government](#)

A revised National Strategy for Community Justice has been published by the Scottish Government. The new strategy is designed to set the national direction for community justice, building on progress made to date and providing a roadmap for future improvement work and key areas for partners to focus on. It is noted that the strategy will not focus on youth justice but will take account of the Scottish Government's [Vision for Youth Justice](#), and its accompanying Action Plan. A separate document listing the [National Aims and Priority Actions](#) is available.

## Looked After and Accommodated Children

### [SCRA launches phase two of Staying Connected project](#)

The Scottish Children's Reporter Administrator (SCRA) has launched phase two of a project aiming to address the gap in knowledge around looked after children and young people's experiences of sibling imprisonment. The latest phase of the Staying Connected project will explore issues around the identification, restoration, and maintenance of relationships between brothers and sisters where one sibling is care-experienced and one is on remand or serving a custodial sentence.

### [Guidance on new cross-border placement regulations published](#)

Guidance has been published on new regulations that will mean Deprivation of Liberty (DOL) orders granted elsewhere in the UK will be treated as if they were



Compulsory Supervision Orders. Though primarily intended for relevant staff in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, the Scottish Government guidance can also support Scottish authorities and services to understand what the placing authorities are required to do when placing a child with a DOL order into Scottish residential care. The guidance also includes a Placement Notice and Undertaking Template.

#### [Challenging colleagues' practice in residential child care](#)

Iriss have published an article exploring issues around challenging colleagues' practice in residential childcare. The article explores how those who care for young people may experience traumatic events that may be unclear at the time. The article also explores themes of working within the 'life space' of others and how the 'correct' course of action dealing with a challenging situation may not always be apparent at the time. The article goes on to discuss how challenging colleagues can support healthy practice when done correctly and by the right practitioner.

### **Mental Health**

#### [Consultation on new mental health and wellbeing strategy](#)

A consultation on a new mental health and wellbeing strategy for Scotland has been published by the Scottish Government. The strategy will generally cover the next five years until 2027 but will also set out a longer-term approach to improve the mental health and wellbeing of the population. The consultation includes questions about the strategy, relating to the overall shared vision, draft outcomes and key issues, as well as a section on children and young people. The finalised strategy will be published later in 2022.

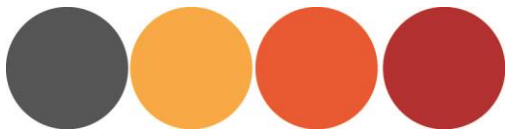
### **Other Health and Social Care**

#### [Care Inspectorate appoints new Chief Executive](#)

Jackie Irvine has been appointed as the new Chief Executive of the Care Inspectorate. Jackie has been a Chief Social Work Officer (CSWO) for over 10 years and comes to the Care Inspectorate from her current post as Service Director, Children and Families and Justice Services at the City of Edinburgh Council. Jackie has over 30 years' experience of working in the public sector and has also managed community health services for children.

#### [Iriss summary of Chief Social Work Officer annual reports](#)

A summary of Chief Social Work Officer (CSWO) Annual Reports for 2020-21 has been published by the Institute for Research and Innovation in Social Services (Iriss). Iriss is annually commissioned by the Office of The Chief Social Work Adviser to undertake analysis and produce an overview of the 32 CSWO reports, highlighting key themes to improve understanding of performance and challenges experienced.



### [Scottish Government publishes fourth progress report on child poverty plan](#)

The Scottish Government has published its fourth annual progress report on the Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan. According to the report, all actions set out in the original child poverty plan had been delivered as of 31 March 2022, as well as actions set out subsequently. Key actions taken in the last year of the plan include the introduction of the statutory duty for all eligible children to receive 1,140 hours of funded early Learning and childcare. The next Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan, [Best Start, Bright Futures](#), was published in March.

### [Research on child poverty in rural areas and islands published](#)

Research on improving the understanding of child poverty in rural areas and islands has been published by the Scottish Government. The research, conducted by the Scottish Rural College, observed data gaps at sub-local authority level on the eligibility and uptake of welfare benefits, cost of living, fuel poverty and the provision of early learning and childcare. The researchers make a number of recommendations, including the establishment of a Rural and Island and Child Poverty Network to emphasise sharing knowledge and best practice.

### [Professional Standards Authority publishes annual report](#)

The Professional Standards Authority for Health and Social Care has published its annual report and accounts for 2021-22 and its [business plan](#) for 2022-23. The annual report provides an overview of the Authority's work over the past year, while the business plan includes strategic objectives, business principles, regulatory oversight, and a standard-setting work programme.

### [IJB financial analysis published by Accounts Commission](#)

A financial analysis relating to integration joint boards (IJBs) has been published by the Accounts Commission. The report suggests funding to IJBs increased by nearly 10% in real terms in 2020-21 but warns of "significant financial sustainability risks exacerbated by uncertainty of future funding, rising demand and the potential impact of a national care service".

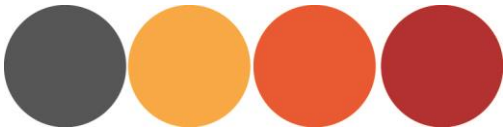
### [New practice development hub for reducing inequalities](#)

A new practice development hub for reducing inequalities has been launched on the Public Health Scotland Virtual Learning Environment. The resource, aimed primarily at those in public service roles, provides practice improvement support and has been designed flexibly so individuals can select information most relevant to their learning needs which can be integrated into actions in their daily work.

### [New practice development hub for reducing inequalities](#)

### [Report explores young people's views on collection and storage of their data](#)

A report exploring young people's views about how their data is collected and stored has been published by Children in Scotland. The Scottish Centre for Administrative Data Research worked with Children in Scotland as part of a collaborative pilot



research project, holding five workshops with children and young people to understand their views. The group felt it was a good thing for anonymised data on children's lives to be used to benefit others, so long as the information was anonymous and not personal. However, they felt that organisations weren't good at telling children when their personal data was being collected and for what purpose.

[Report explores experience of family support services for minority ethnic families \(England\)](#)

A report exploring the experiences of minority ethnic families in accessing and receiving family support in England has been published by the Early Intervention Foundation. According to the report, experiences of discrimination and racism were commonly reported among the parents and young people who participated in the research, related both to accessing services and the support that families received. The report makes four recommendations, including the need for all services working with children and families to embed effective approaches to eradicate racist and discriminatory practices.

**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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