



[Additional Support Needs](#)

[Child Protection](#)

[Early Learning and Childcare](#)

[Education](#)

[Health](#)

[Justice](#)

[Looked After and Accommodated Children](#)

[Other Health and Social Care](#)

Additional Support Needs

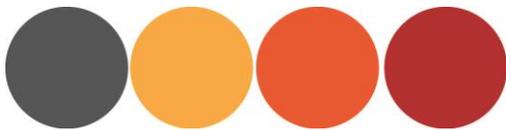
[Neurodivergent children face more challenges than their peers study \(England/Wales\)](#)

Researchers at Keele University produced a study on neurodivergent children and how they face challenges in the education and youth justice system. The researchers interviewed 19 young people aged between 15 and 18 years old who were either in custody or had been recently released for offences which included burglary, robbery, and manslaughter. The research findings suggest that both the education and youth justice systems in England and Wales are disabling and criminalising through processes that, often unintentionally; label, stigmatise, isolate, neglect, and harm neurodivergent children.

Child Protection

[NSPCC predicts a rise in helpline calls over the summer](#)

NSPCC has predicted a rise in calls to their helpline due to children being left alone during the school summer holidays. In 2020/21 the helpline received over 6,000 calls about children being left without adult supervision. NSPCC presume that the cost-of-living crisis will put more pressure on families to work leading to an increase in calls to the helpline. NSPCC highlight that although there's no legal age a child can be left home alone, it is against the law to leave a child alone if it puts them at risk.



[Scottish charity highlight issues with online safety bill delay](#)

NSPCC highlighted that after analysis of Police Scotland crime data online child sexual abuse offenses have more than doubled over the last decade, reports the Herald. As of March 2022, 1,298 indecent image offences and crimes relating to communicating indecently with a child had been recorded, which was an increase from 543 offences over a decade ago. The charity has highlighted these issues with hopes it will encourage the UK Government to rethink the delay of the online safety bill.

Early Learning and Childcare

[Play Scotland and ScrapAntics Playday event 3 August 2022](#)

Play Scotland has announced that play day 2022 will be held on 3 August and will run from 11 am – 3pm. The event is run in conjunction with ScrapAntics and will be held at Fruit Bowls Community Gardens. The event will include an art activity and Loose Parts Play and is completely free to attend.

[Data protection impact assessment for two-year-olds published](#)

The Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) for the regulations which will allow for a data sharing agreement regarding funded ELC provision for 2-year-olds, between the UK Government, Scottish Government, and Scottish local authorities was published by the Scottish Government.

Education

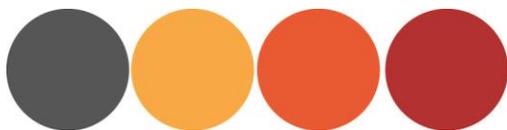
[Education outcomes for looked after children published](#)

The Scottish Government has published the education outcomes for looked after children during 2020/21. It provides information on attainment, leaver destinations, attendance, and exclusions for school leavers. The findings show that leaver attainment figures for looked after children sit at 71% which is down from 72% in 2019/20 and still below the general leaver figure of 96%. Exclusion of looked after children was significantly higher than all pupils, with 78 cases of exclusion compared with 12 for general children. This was however down from 152 exclusions reported in 2019/20. Finally, 86% of looked after children went to a positive initial destination, up from 80% in 2019-20

Health

[Cause of hepatitis outbreak identified](#)

Two teams of researchers from Glasgow and London have identified the cause of the hepatitis outbreak in young children, reports the BBC. The researchers have identified that two common viruses were more prevalent after the Covid-19 pandemic, leading to rare, and in some cases severe symptoms of hepatitis. It is



believed that young children did not gain the required immunity to the two viruses due to the pandemic and isolation restrictions.

[Legislation for extra paid leave for parents who have a premature baby](#)

The Neonatal Care (Leave and Pay) Bill would allow parents to take up to an extra 12 weeks of paid leave if their child is born prematurely, reports the BBC. The Neonatal Care (Leave and Pay) Bill completed its second reading in Parliament and has received cross-party support in the House of Commons. The Bill would also provide support for babies born at full term who need neonatal care.

[National Bereavement Care Pathway relaunching in Autumn](#)

The National Bereavement Care Pathway (NBCP) Scotland Project is funded by Scottish Government and delivered in partnership with [Sands – the stillbirth and neonatal death charity](#). The NBCP aims to increase quality of bereavement care and reduce local and national inconsistencies so all bereaved women, partners and families in Scotland receive compassionate, person-centred care. NBCP provides evidence-based pathways designed for healthcare professionals and staff who are involved in delivering person-centred care.

Justice

[Community Justice Scotland podcast with lived experience young people](#)

Community Justice Scotland has teamed up with The Empathy Museum to produce the Our Justice podcasts. Our Justice is a series of true stories and conversations co-produced by young people who have experienced the Scottish justice system. The aim is to empower young people to share their stories and improve public understanding. The first episode is out now with new episodes set to land on Wednesdays.

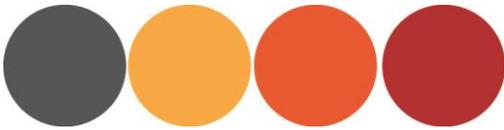
Looked After and Accommodated Children

[Care Leaver Covenant appoints first care-experienced chair](#)

The Care Leaver Covenant's advisory board has appointed Zahra Printer, their first ever care-experienced member since its launch in 2018, reports Children and Young People Now. Private, public, and voluntary sector organisations sign up to the covenant and help provide opportunities for care leavers including employment, education and training, safety and security, health, financial independence, and independent living.

[Ofsted report highlights how staffing challenges may affect social care \(England\)](#)

Ofsted has published a report on the ongoing impact of the Covid-19 on children's social care, drawing on evidence from inspections, focus groups and interviews with inspectors. The report finds that the pandemic has only made existing issues within children's social care worse meaning that not all children in care are having their



needs met. The report also highlights the limits of home-based working for peer support and for learning and development opportunities for social workers and other staff. The cost-of-living crisis was also highlighted as an issue within the report as this is also having an impact on children's services.

Other Health and Social Care

Care Inspectorate appoints new chief nurse

Marie McKerry has been appointed to the permanent post of chief nurse for the Care Inspectorate after holding this post on an interim basis. Marie brings a wealth of experience of nursing in public health, community, and social care settings. Ms. McKerry will work in partnership with registered services to support quality improvement. The Chief Nurse works across the life span and across all disciplines of nursing for the Care Inspectorate. As we move towards a National Care Service the focus of Marie's work will be on the Covid-19 recovery framework, supporting effective partnerships and wellbeing of people who experience services in Scotland

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.

It should also be noted that the Care Inspectorate has no liability in respect of the content of external websites which may be signposted on this site.