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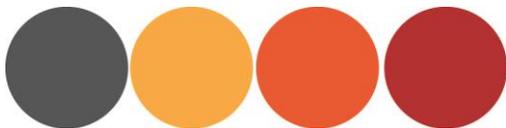
## Covid-19 - General

[Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry launches series of newsletters](#)

The Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry has published the first issue of its newsletter. The Inquiry hopes that the regular newsletters will be a useful source of information for people looking to follow the progress of the Inquiry. The first issue includes an introduction from the Chair, an overview of the progress made to establish the Inquiry's essential operational infrastructure, information on the Inquiry's introductory academic scoping research, and information on the amendments made to the Inquiry's Terms of Reference.

[Winter vaccine programme begins in Scotland](#)

The Scottish Government has announced the start of the winter vaccine programme. Carers aged 16 to 49 and those aged five to 49 years who are in a clinical risk group, pregnant or household contacts of people with immunosuppression will be eligible for the winter vaccine over the next few months.



### [Facemasks are no longer required in social care settings](#)

Social care staff and visitors are no longer being advised to wear facemasks at all times under new [guidance](#) published by the Scottish Government. The updated guidance notes transmission rates are lower, and the virus is currently milder than at earlier stages in the pandemic resulting in a reduction in severity of illness and hospitalisation. Masks and face coverings in social care may still be worn if recommended in certain situations, such as a local outbreak, or if staff deem it necessary.

### **Disability**

#### [Journey from Child to Adult Disability Payment webinars launched](#)

Social Security Scotland (SSS) will be contacting clients currently in receipt of Child Disability Payment who may be eligible to apply for Adult Disability Payment. To aid in information delivery SSS are hosting multiple webinars in September to give information on moving from the Child Disability Payment to the Adult Disability Payment. The webinars are free to attend and are open to anyone who advises and supports clients in receipt of Child Disability Payment and are approaching 16 years old.

### **Early Learning and Childcare**

#### [Quality framework for daycare of children, childminding, and school-aged childcare](#)

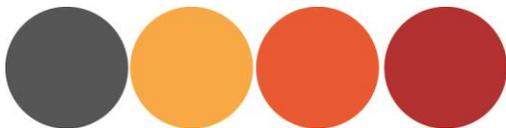
The Care Inspectorate early learning and childcare improvement team has produced a new series of bitesize sessions to introduce the new quality framework for Early Learning and Childcare inspections. The [second session in the series](#) will focus on how to use evaluative language and best practice guidance to complete self-evaluation. All of the previous sessions can be viewed [here](#).

#### [SSSC Launch '23 Things' Early Learning and Childcare Leadership resource](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has launched a new resource for people working with children. The '23 Things' early learning and childcare leadership resource is designed to help workers to engage in their own leadership development through a customisable learning pathway. There is no timescale to work through the learning activities, it is fully flexible and customisable to specific learning needs.

#### [SCMA urge participation in virtual consultation events for future of ELC inspection](#)

The Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) has urged its members to participate in the final virtual consultation event on the future of early learning and childcare and school-age childcare inspection. This will take place on Tuesday 13 September from 7:30–8:30pm.



## Education

### [New mediation resource launched for children and young people](#)

Resolve, managed by Children in Scotland, the largest independent provider of mediation to the education community in Scotland, has launched its new website. The resource brings together guidance on the value of mediation, the process of how it works, how to access the service and how to make a request for support.

### [Scottish Government publish GIRFEC consultation responses](#)

The Scottish Government has published an analysis of responses received to the consultation on Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC) statutory guidance on assessment of wellbeing. It aims to clarify how the eight wellbeing indicators are used to assess the wellbeing of children and young people and explain what wellbeing is in the context of the Act. Most respondents felt the draft guidance and wellbeing indicators were mostly or completely clear. Respondents' opinions on whether the guidance clarified practitioners' roles and responsibilities were mixed and about half felt the guidance would help practitioners to understand and embed the UNCRC in wellbeing assessments.

## Health

### [School Healthy Living Survey statistics 2022 published](#)

The Scottish Government has published statistics from the Scottish Healthy Living survey 2022, covering all publicly funded schools in Scotland around the registration for free school meals and the uptake of school meals and Physical Education (PE). The Government notes that in 2022, the percentage of the total school roll registered for free school meals has increased from 38.1% in 2020 to 51.9% after the extension of universal entitlement to free school meals for all P1-P5 pupils. The proportion of schools meeting the PE target of at least two hours in primary and two periods at secondary school in 2022 was 99%. This is an increase on the 96% of schools meeting the target in 2021 but the same percentage as 2020.

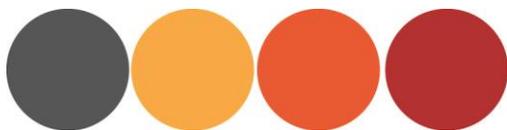
## Justice

### [Chief Executive appointed at The Promise Scotland](#)

Fraser McKinlay has been appointed as chief executive of the Promise Scotland. Fraser McKinlay was formerly controller of audit and director, performance audit and best value at Audit Scotland. Appointments of non-executive directors have also been announced.

### [Scottish Government changes Children's Hearings and Pre-Hearing Panels](#)

The Scottish Government has published an Equality Impact Assessment and a [Child Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment](#) for changes to the composition of



Children's Hearings and Pre-Hearing Panels. The change for both panels will ensure flexibility over the current requirement of both male and female panel members.

## **Mental Health**

### [CYCJ launch Men-Minds project](#)

The Children and Young People's Centre for Justice (CYCJ) has announced a project in collaboration with the University of Strathclyde and University of Dundee to advance mental health research for marginalised young men. The "Men-Minds" project will work with young men in conflict with the law, LGBTQ+ young men and migrant young men to co-produce change for better mental health.

### [New community outreach programme: Boredom Box](#)

Children 1<sup>st</sup> have highlighted a community outreach programme taking place in the North East of Scotland, the Boredom Box. Peacock & the worm, a printmaking workshop and art space in Aberdeen, developed the Boredom Boxes in a response to the pandemic to continue engagement with young people from a distance, with the boxes containing a range of high-quality art materials of all kinds and bespoke guidelines and instructions on how to use them. The project has now outlasted the pandemic and is continuing to expand to provide resources to young people who have a variety of barriers in place to accessing creative activity and the benefits to wellbeing and mental health that come with that.

### [Charity publishes results of YouGov poll relating to mental health at school](#)

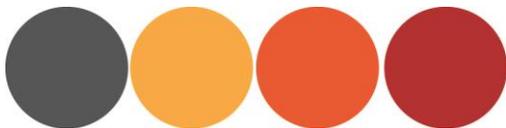
Barnardo's has published the results of a YouGov poll which show 61% of parents in the UK with school aged children experiencing mental health difficulties had concerns about their children's performance at school as a result of their child's mental health. 61% of parents also noted that this has led to low self-esteem, while 49% said their child finds it hard to concentrate or focus on learning due to their mental health issues. With only 34% of children and young people ages 12 -18 years old responding to the poll stating that there is a mental health specialist within their school. Almost three quarters, 73%, of parents with school aged children (aged five to 18) said that there should be more funding for school-based counselling to support children experiencing issues with their mental health.

## **Other Health and Social Care**

### [First Minister outlines Programme for Government 2022-23](#)

First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon, has outlined the new Programme for Government 2022-23 against the backdrop of the cost-of-living crisis and sets out the government's response to this, as well as setting out actions it believes should be taken at a UK level to address the crisis. From the new plan there are various points that are specifically relevant to children and young people, these include:

- **Children's Care and Justice Bill** – The Bill aims to improve experiences and outcomes for children in Scotland who interact with the children's hearing and



criminal justice systems, as well as care settings and those who are placed across borders in exceptional circumstances. It will help Scotland Keep 'The Promise'.

- **Education Reform Bill** – The Bill will provide for the establishment of a new public body responsible for qualifications in Scotland and the creation of an independent education inspectorate.

### [Scottish Child Payment Increase](#)

The Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing and Local Government Shona Robison has written to inform the Social Justice and Social Security Committee of provisions to increase the Scottish Child Payment to £25 per week and to extend the payment to under-16s from Monday 14 November.

### [SOSCN to host access to the Childcare Fund free online session 12 October](#)

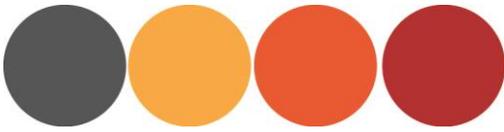
The Scottish Out of School Care Network (SOSCN) has announced it will host an online seminar on Wednesday 12 October on learning from the Access to Childcare Fund since its introduction in 2020. This session, held in partnership with Scottish Government, Children in Scotland, and a selection of the funded projects, will share how the fund was delivered, the impact on children and families, and how the learning will help support the development of the Scottish Government's commitment to deliver funded School Age Childcare for families from low incomes.

### [BASW members survey highlights cost-of-living crisis](#)

A new survey conducted by Professional Social Work magazine of British Association of Social Work (BASW) members shows the cost-of-living crisis will have a catastrophic impact on people who use services or may in the future need help. Over 242 social workers overwhelmingly predicted vulnerable adults could die this winter, that more children would go into care, a spike in domestic violence, crime, and social unrest. Of the 242 surveyed, 75% of social workers strongly agreed that more children will come into care due to the crisis and 55% said they think caseloads will become unmanageable. Furthermore, 43% of respondents fear that they will struggle to pay their own bills, with 20% expecting to use a food bank given the current cost-of-living crisis.

### [SASW publish its response to the National Care Service \(Scotland\) Bill consultation](#)

The Scottish Association of Social Workers (SASW) has published its response to the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee's call for views on the National Care Service (Scotland) Bill. In its response, SASW has noted the Bill is currently too light in detail to say whether it will improve the quality and consistency of social work and social care services. It notes the lack of detail around funding, workforce, and how social work and social care will operate. SASW's response has been shaped by feedback received from social workers through online engagement sessions and surveys, and a summary version of the submitted response will be available shortly.



### [SSSC announce funded places for the Scottish Improvement Leader programme](#)

The SSSC has announced it is working with NHS Education for Scotland (NES) to offer funded places for the Scottish Improvement Leader programme (SciL) to support workers in social services to develop quality improvement knowledge and skills. The programme provides learning for workers in roles with a significant focus on quality improvement and dedicated time allocated to lead improvement projects. The closing date for applications is 10am on Friday 14 October 2022.

### [New Prime Minister announced](#)

Liz Truss has replaced Boris Johnson as Prime Minister and announced her new cabinet. Thérèse Coffey has been announced as the Deputy Prime Minister as well as Health Secretary taking over from Stephen Barclay.

#### **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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