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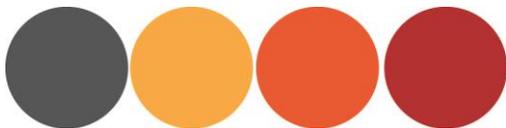
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Covid-19 - General

[Asymptomatic testing and face coverings in social care change](#)

All asymptomatic testing in social care is now paused. The expectation is for all asymptomatic testing to stop within all social care services by 28 September 2022, but this can take place with immediate effect. Public Health Scotland has reflected the changes to asymptomatic testing within the Covid-19: information and guidance for social, community and residential care settings guidance version 2.3.



Additional Support Needs

[SCLD blog by Dr Brodie Paterson on how trauma can inform restraint reduction](#)

The Scottish Commission for People with Learning Disabilities (SCLD) has published a blog from Dr Brodie Paterson, Clinical Director of [CALM Training](#), a specialist consultancy, support, and training provider to services supporting people whose distress may present as behaviour that challenges, on how trauma can inform restraint reduction. Dr Paterson noted that the root cause of the use of restraint must be identified to prevent the need for it, highlighting that recent developments in how trauma is understood has led to calls that services supporting children and adults whose distress may present in ways that services find challenging to prevent, should be 'trauma-informed'. Children who are neurologically atypical or who have sensory needs may also struggle with emotional and behavioural regulation, meaning they are more readily overwhelmed and thus traumatised. Dr Paterson highlighted that a shift from physical restraint to relational holding, understanding the behaviour and working through it would be far more beneficial and not perpetuate a cycle of trauma.

Child Protection

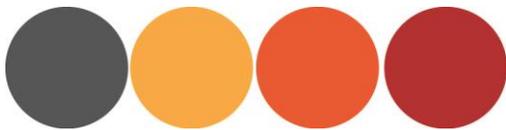
[What The Promise means for rural social workers webinar 6 October](#)

Iriss is hosting a 'What The Promise means for rural social workers' webinar from 1-2pm on 6 October. The webinar will explore the opportunities and challenges that The Promise may face in a rural context. Guest speakers include Brian Houston, Head of Support at The Promise Scotland and former social worker and senior social worker in children's services; and Mandy Sheridan, Service Improvement Officer with Argyll and Bute HSCP.

Disability

[Thomas the Tank Engine introduces first ever autistic character](#)

Nine-year-old Elliot Garcia, who is autistic, will voice the first ever autistic character in the Thomas the Tank Engine series: Thomas & Friends: All Engines Go, reports Learning Disability Today. The National Autistic Society (NAS) have been working with the Thomas & Friends brand for years to develop a character and cast the right person in the role. NAS say Bruno's rich friendships and important work introduces audiences to a positive, neurodivergent role model. There are 700,000 autistic people in the UK with 160,000 of those school ages children, Bruno thoughtfully reflects the traits of some but not all autistic people, however NAS commented that it was a "step in the right direction".



Early Learning and Childcare

[Care Inspectorate publish 2021 ELC statistics](#)

The Care Inspectorate has published 'Early Learning and Childcare Statistics 2021', which shows the availability and quality of early learning and childcare (ELC) for children and families across Scotland. The annual publication, covering 2021, shows that compared to 2020 there are fewer early learning and childcare (ELC) services operating, but despite this, the number of places available has once again increased. The quality of services remained high overall with 92.8% of childminders and 87.7% of daycare of children services found to be good or better for all quality themes. This compares to 92.6% of childminders and 88.7% of daycare of children services achieving this standard in 2020. The proportion of services with all themes found to be weak or unsatisfactory remained very low.

[International nursery operator buys its first UK setting \(England\)](#)

Overseas nursery investors Utasha Education have bought their first setting in the UK, with plans to acquire further sites, Nursery World reports. The purchased setting is Barnes Day Care, a 30-place nursery in South-West London. This is the company's first nursery in the UK having previously invested in an overseas nursery business.

Health

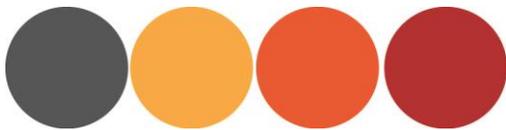
[Malnutrition in children has increased since Covid-19 Pandemic](#)

A growing number of children have been treated for malnutrition in hospitals across Scotland according to figures obtained by The Herald. Malnutrition refers to deficiencies, excesses, or imbalances in a person's intake of energy and/or nutrients. Glasgow, where one third of children are estimated to be living in poverty, has seen the highest rate since 2018 with NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde reporting a total of 3,895 admissions of under 18's to acute sites for malnutrition from 2018-22. In 2021 1000 under 18s were referred when compared with 572 under 18s before the pandemic. It was noted that these figures did not include GP information where it is estimated that most patients would have been treated. This indicated that the numbers could be significantly higher than described.

Justice

[Children's Care and Justice Bill consultation responses published](#)

The Scottish Government has published an analysis of responses to the consultation on the Children's Care and Justice Bill. The consultation consisted of 106 responses for individuals and organisations from different sectors. The report states that, "there was generally a reasonable level of consensus within and across topics" further stating that the proposed bill will have an impact on workforce development and skills as well as capacity. It was also noted that there must be a balance between



meeting the needs of the child who had caused harm as well as the person who was harmed.

[CYCJ publish a guide to Scotland's Whole System Approach](#)

The Children and Young People's Centre for Justice has published a guide to Scotland's Whole System Approach to help children understand their rights and support which is available if they come into conflict with the law. The guide was developed with help from three young adults with lived experience of different stages of the justice system. The resource highlights some of the important information that they believed children and young people should be aware of when encountering the justice systems.

Looked After and Accommodated Children

[SIRCC Conference 9 – 10 November 2022](#)

The Scottish Institute for Residential Child Care (SIRCC) have released the dates of their free 2022 conference, 9 – 10 November. The theme this year is recovery and resilience. The event includes webinars, workshops, exhibitions, and opportunities to network for both individuals and teams. Further details are to follow.

[Consultation: Mainstream Boarding Schools and School Hostels Design Guide](#)

The Care Inspectorate are developing a new design guide for school care accommodation services (mainstream boarding schools and school hostels). The consultation is being conducted on CitizenLab so that everyone with an interest in school care accommodation will have the opportunity to share their views with us on the draft guide.

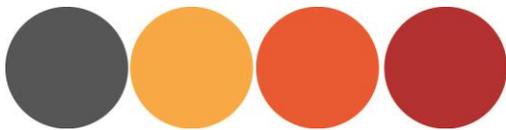
[Kinship carers report published by the Social Justice and Social Security Committee](#)

The Social Justice and Social Security Committee has published a report on kinship carers, following several thematic sessions earlier this year on how the support they receive could be improved. The committee recommended that in order to build confidence in the collaborative it was vital its work be clearly communicated with realistic timescales. The committee expects to the government to provide information on how it will meet this goal in its response and confirmed it would revisit the issue within the next 12 months.

Workforce

[Children's services my face the same workforce challenges as adult services](#)

Children's services in Scotland are reportedly beginning to face the same workforce challenges as adult care services, because of the council pay settlement. Alison Christie of the Coalition of Care and Support Providers Scotland (CCPS) has warned the settlement will further increase inequality among council-employed social care workers and those working in commissioned services.



[Ireland introduces first ever minimum pay rate for ELC Sector \(Ireland\)](#)

Ireland has introduced a pay scale for its Early Learning and Childcare workers. The minister of state for business, employment and retail Damien English has accepted proposals for Employment Regulation Orders for the early years sector. The new regulations mean that those working in the early years services sector will receive new minimum hourly rates of pay. Under the move, which is supported through the government's €221m Core Funding Scheme, more than 70 per cent of staff will receive a pay increase. Under the same funding scheme, the Irish government had also committed to freezing childcare fees for parents.

Other Health and Social Care

[Inquiry into child poverty and parental employment launched](#)

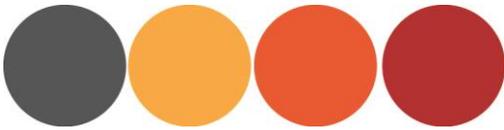
The Scottish Government has launched an inquiry into child poverty and parental employment as part of the [Best Start, Bright Futures—Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan 2022-2026](#). The inquiry will consider how the Government is working with local authorities, employers, and other partners locally as well as the broad range of policies required to support employment of parents such as childcare and transport and will consider what support is available for groups at a higher risk of poverty. The committee will spend autumn gathering information from Local Employability Partnerships and will visit employment projects during the winter. In early 2023 a national call for views will be held, before evidence sessions post-spring and in autumn 2023 findings will be reported.

[Audit Scotland publish tackling child poverty briefing paper](#)

Audit Scotland has published the Tackling Child Poverty Briefing paper which evaluates the long-term joint planning that is needed to address child poverty in Scotland. The child poverty targets that were set in 2017 have yet to be properly addressed, according to Audit Scotland, who show that figures have only risen. In 2019/20 over a quarter of children were living in poverty, which is higher than the targets set in 2017. Audit Scotland does note that due to the Covid-19 pandemic it is unable to fully assess the success of the Government's first four-year plan (which launched in 2018) as data collection was halted in 2020. One of the recommendations from Audit Scotland is to include children and families with lived experience in providing oversight into how tackling poverty should begin. Other recommendations include to better inform councils and national groups and how they can impact the plan as well as setting out progress actions to ensure that the 2026 targets are met.

[New appointments to the Scottish Human Rights Commission](#)

The Scottish Parliament has highlighted the appointment of Jim Farish, Shelley Gray and Claire Methven O'Brien to the Scottish Human Rights Commission. Their role will be as part-time members and will start on Monday 26 September

**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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