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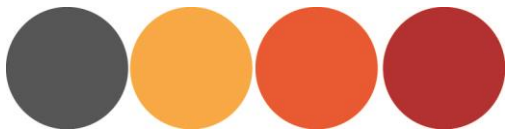
Covid-19 - General

[Asymptomatic testing paused for health and social care](#)

Health and social care workers are no longer required to test for Covid-19 every week. The four UK Chief Medical Officers have agreed that it is safe to halt weekly asymptomatic testing from 28 September. Testing will remain in place for admissions into care homes and to support appropriate clinical diagnosis and treatment for hospital patients and care home residents

[Recommendations from the Covid-19 inquiry published](#)

The Covid-19 Recovery Committee has written to the Scottish Government with its conclusions regarding the Covid-19 communication of public health information inquiry. The Committee identified several issues and recommendations, including that the Scottish Government should prepare communication plans for future pandemics to ensure that any learning from the Covid-19 pandemic is reflected in these plans. The Committee also recommends that further consideration is given to an independent fact-checking service to tackle misinformation and disinformation as suggested by witnesses.



Early Learning and Childcare

[SCMA highlight Education Scotland webinars for ELC](#)

The Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) has highlighted childminding webinars hosted by Education Scotland in October. There are three sessions running throughout October focusing on various aspects of childminding: curriculum and planning, pedagogical leadership and transitions matter.

[Extra 3,000 free childcare places announced in Wales \(Wales\)](#)

An extra 3,000 free childcare places will be created for two-year-olds from April in Wales, BBC news reports. The money for these extra places in the Flying Start programme will be funded as part of the £100million pledged by the Welsh government to improve availability. Eligible families will be contacted in 2023.

Education

[Digital Literacy Week 3 – 7 October](#)

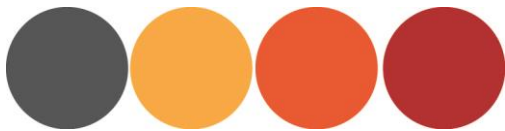
The first ever digital literacy week will be run by Education Scotland between 3 – 7 October. Fun, interactive and information sessions will be held throughout the week focusing on a range of topics, including how to tell stories using film and media, app prototyping and a session with Google for Education in support of World Animal Day.

[School-aged childcare – Care Inspectorate Teams Live event](#)

The Care Inspectorate are holding a Teams Live event on Thursday 6 October 2022, from 10am to 11am. This online event will give the school age childcare sector in Scotland an opportunity to find out more about the quality framework for day-care of children, childminding and school - aged childcare. The Teams event will include a presentation to highlight how the quality framework supports high quality play, care and learning opportunities for children as well as a question-and-answer session.

[HM Inspectors find community development outcomes improving](#)

The Community Learning and Development (CLD) sector and its partners across Scotland have been helping marginalised or socially isolated individuals throughout the pandemic, His Majesty's Inspectors have found. HM Inspectors carried out a thematic review of community development practice in response to Covid-19 and visited CLD settings, from national, to local and third sector organisations. HM Inspectors have now published their report. The report highlights emerging key features of highly effective community development practice and identifies aspects for improvement in community response, volunteering, partnership working, digital access and workforce development.



Justice

[Social sciences internship opportunity at CYCJ](#)

PhD social science students have the opportunity to apply for a new hybrid internship with the Children and Young People's Centre for Justice (CYCJ) and Action for Children. The successful PhD intern will undertake a scoping review on Child Criminal Exploitation in Scotland, to inform potential future research and service/policy development. This three-month placement is a fantastic opportunity to apply research skills to make a meaningful difference and learn more about the policy landscape in Scotland. The application deadline is Wednesday 19 October.

Mental Health

[Scottish Government set to launch Suicide Prevention Strategy](#)

The Scottish Government is set to launch its new 10-year strategy for suicide prevention called 'Creating Hope Together: Scotland's Suicide Prevention Strategy 2022-2032'. The strategy will draw on levers across national and local government to address the underlying social issues that can cause people to feel suicidal, while making sure the right support is there for people and their families.

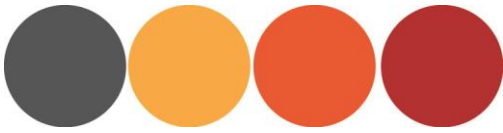
Other Health and Social Care

[Baby Loss Awareness Week 9 – 15 October](#)

Baby Loss Awareness Week will take place from the 9 – 15 October and will mark the 20th year of the campaign. The theme this year is 'Stepping Stones', creating a space for everyone that has been touched by baby loss; parents, families, healthcare professionals and the wider community. The [Wave of Light](#) will take place on 15th October at 7pm where you can light a candle in memory of all the babies who lit up our lives for such a short time.

[Independent review of social care regulation announced](#)

The Scottish Government has announced that it has commissioned an Independent Review of Inspection, Scrutiny and Regulation (IRISR) across social care support services. The review follows on from the Independent Review of Adult Social Care and runs alongside the ongoing development of the National Care Service. The independent review is due to start this month and to report to Scottish Government in June 2023. It will be chaired by Dame Sue Bruce and Stuart Currie will be the Vice Chair. The review will include a call for evidence and a programme of stakeholder engagement. Two advisory panels will support the review – an Advisory Panel and a Practitioner and Stakeholder Panel. The panels will provide specialist advice to inform any recommendations the Chair makes. The panels will include people with lived and living experience of care as well as staff



[Young Carer Grant statistics published](#)

The Scottish Government has published statistics for the Young Carer Grant from October 2019 to July 2022. In this time 9,965 applications were processed, with 69% authorised and £2.1m issued in awards.

[Human Learning System week 10 – 14 October](#)

Iriss are hosting a Human Learning Systems Week, which will take place from 10-14 October and provides an opportunity to learn about the approach and to apply it. Listen to Toby Lowe, Visiting Professor, Centre for Public Impact; and Diana Hekerem, Healthcare Improvement Scotland, [explain the Human Learning Systems approach](#), how it works, and talk through some practical examples.

[Get involved in designing the National Care Service \(NCS\)](#)

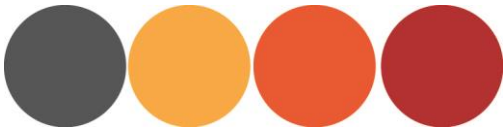
The Scottish Government has opened applications to individuals and organisations interested in joining co-design panels and playing a part in designing the new National Care Service (NCS). Adults over the age of 18 can apply on gov.scot to join the Lived Experience Experts Panel (LEEP) which will bring together all sorts of people from across the country to share their views on how the new NCS can best meet the needs of those it will serve. The new NCS will set national standards and guidance to support the local design and delivery of community healthcare and social work services in a way which best meets the needs of those who use them. It is vitally important that the NCS is designed with those who use and work across health and social care so please share information about these panels throughout your network. Additionally, the first National Care Service Forum will take place on Monday 3 October in Perth. This will be another opportunity for individuals to engage and shape the NCS co-design process.

[New guidelines launched on media reporting of social workers](#)

BASW has highlighted new guidance developed for journalists reporting on the work of social workers. The guidelines have been developed by the Social Workers Union (SWU), in consultation with the UK's approved press regulator IMPRESS, and looks to avoid unbalanced reporting on social work and social workers. The guidance includes information on understanding the role of a social worker and includes a best practice guide with simple ways to improve reporting on social work and workers.

[Scottish Government launches new Cost of Living website](#)

The Cost of Living Support Scotland website provides advice and information on financial support available to help those struggling with the cost of the living crisis.

**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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