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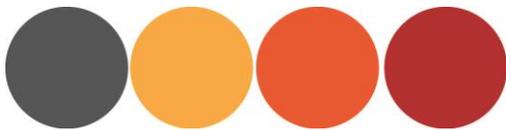
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Covid-19 - General

[First results from largescale study on long-Covid published](#)

STV news has reported that the first results of a largescale study into the effects of long Covid carried out by Scottish researchers have been published. The study was led by the University of Glasgow and found that almost half of people that had Covid-19 were still suffering from symptoms up to 18 months after being infected. The study also revealed that long-Covid was more likely in cases of severe infection requiring hospitalisation.



Child Protection

[Adverse Childhood Experiences \(ACEs\) and Development article published](#)

The Fraser of Allander Institute has published an article on adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and development. It notes ACEs are stressful events experienced in childhood, including childhood maltreatment and abuse and harmful home environments, that influence a multitude of present and future outcomes. ACEs are highly prevalent in the UK with a 2014 UK study showing 47% of people reported at least one ACE and 9% of the population had more than four ACEs. However, ACEs are more prevalent among children from deprived and lower socioeconomic backgrounds and those whose parents experienced ACEs. The research highlights that an early and prolonged exposure to heightened stress can result in adverse responses to future stressors, impairing social and cognitive development and compromised immune systems. The most fatal outcome of ACEs is the increased response to adverse adult health outcomes and ultimately early death.

[Research published on families' attitudes towards age assurance \(England\)](#)

The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and Ofcom have published research which they commissioned to provide an understanding on the attitudes that families have towards age assurance. The ICO and Ofcom are working together on protecting children online, focusing on improving outcomes for children and parents, through privacy and online safety precautions. Age assurance refers to several measures which would allow organisations to prevent children from accessing services which are inappropriate for their age, and also to tailor services to suit their developmental needs. The research highlighted that most parents felt services should have age assurance measures, however sometimes this does conflict with parents/guardian's desire for control and flexibility as they can take into consideration their own children's mental maturity out with their age. Furthermore, it highlighted that most children had circumvented current age assurance methods themselves (especially self-declaration methods) or has known someone that had.

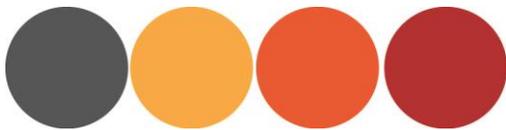
Education

[Scottish Government launch children education issues focus group](#)

The Scottish Government has launched an application form for child rights and inclusion organisations to participate in a focus group as part of its research into key educational issues which affect children and young people.

[Scottish Government sets out Theory of Change in education model](#)

The Scottish Government has published a report from Gender Equality in Education and Learning setting out its Theory of Change model and accompanying narrative. The Theory of Change diagram plots out the overarching goals, the dependencies needed to enable these goals to occur, other outcomes that will happen while achieving these goals, and sets out a range of short, medium and long-term



recommendations. The model was informed by research undertaken by the Scottish Youth Parliament and Children's Parliament. The Taskforce's response to these reports has also been published.

[Pupil support staff engagement project report published](#)

Children in Scotland has published a report on its Pupil Support Staff Engagement Project, work which is part of a larger Education Scotland project to contribute to the development of a new professional framework for pupil support staff. The report, based on engagement with 150 young people aged 4-19 across 27 local authority areas, highlights what pupils want from additional learning support staff, including meaningful relationships and connections with staff, nurturing approaches, up-to-date training, and a recognition of individual needs. The report identified several 'next steps' one of which was to have Children in Scotland liaise with Education Scotland to ensure learning from the project is included in the wider engagement programme that is to be delivered by Education Scotland.

Health

[NHS England to offer genomic testing to seriously ill children \(England\)](#)

NHS England are to offer new genomic testing to help diagnose rare conditions in seriously ill children and babies more quickly reports the BBC. Using a single blood test, scientists can spot gene mutations, run them through a giant database and identify the cause within days. These could include forms of severe epilepsy and unusual cancers.

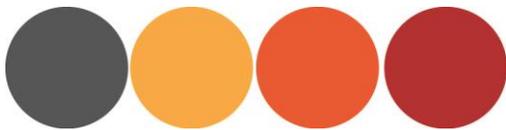
[Research into children born in during the Covid-19 pandemic published \(Ireland\)](#)

Research conducted by the Royal College of Surgeons Ireland and university College Cork, in Ireland shows babies born during the Covid-19 pandemic appear to have been slower to reach key communication milestones. Researchers compared a "pandemic cohort" of 309 infants born in Ireland between March and May 2020 against historical data on around 1,600 babies born between 2008 and 2011. The children born during the pandemic were less likely to have achieved three key social communication benchmarks by the time they turned one, based on parental observations. These included speaking one definite and meaningful word, waving goodbye and pointing. The report concluded by stating that pandemic-associated social isolation may have impacted on the social communication skills in babies born during the pandemic compared with a historical cohort. Babies are resilient and inquisitive by nature, and it is hoped that with societal re-emergence and increase in social circles, their social communication skills will improve.

Looked After and Accommodated Children

[New report details housing support needed for care experienced young people](#)

The Evaluation of the Home and Belonging Initiative report marks the conclusion of the evaluation of the Home and Belonging (H&B) initiative, led by Children in



Scotland and Staf (the Scottish Throughcare and Aftercare Forum). Managed at the outset by the Life Changes Trust, H&B funded 11 projects to explore innovative ways of providing housing support to those with experience of care as they moved into their first home. It aimed to improve experiences of home, connections in the community and transitions from care. The report identified adults giving up decision-making power to young people with care experience, ensuring the voices of young people are driving the change. Relationships and support and availability of high-quality, suitable housing was also mentioned. Comments were also made on housing support, proposing that the process should be more trauma-informed and responsive. Amongst the recommendations were to consider how national legislation, policy and guidance can support people to access secure tenancies as they leave care.

Mental Health

[Action for Children Blues Programme](#)

The Blues Programme is an internationally acclaimed wellbeing programme run by Action for Children for young people aged 13 – 19 years old. The programme runs for six weeks and teaches emotional resilience and helps reduce low mood and anxious thoughts.

[Getting the most out of NHS Education Early Intervention Framework](#)

NHS Education for Scotland has published an article on getting the most out of its Early Intervention Framework for Children and Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing. The framework is a searchable database of evidence-based mental health and wellbeing interventions from the antenatal period to 18 years.

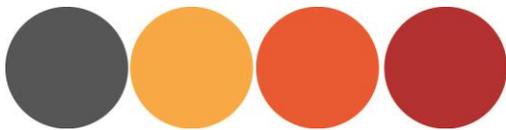
[New data shows strong demand for suicide prevention educational resources](#)

NHS Education for Scotland (NES) has published new data showing strong uptake for suicide prevention educational resources. NES reports there were over 65,500 views of the Ask, Tell, Respond adult animations, and 8,000 views of the children's version of the animation, with the animations being used widely across the country. It also noted 12 of the 19 Higher Educational Institutions (HEI's) and 12 of the 27 Further Education colleges (FE's) in Scotland access and use the resources within their programmes.

Other Health and Social Care

[CELCIS to undertake independent research on children's services in Scotland](#)

The Centre for Excellence for Children's care and Protection (CELCIS) has been commissioned by the Scottish Government to undertake an independent review of children's services in Scotland. The research hopes to understand the current service delivery models in Scotland and internationally to assess their effectiveness in supporting the needs of children and their families. The work is designed to inform the Scottish Government's decision about the future of children's services in the light



of the introduction of the new National Care Service (NCS) and aligns with the commitment to keep The Promise of the Independent Care Review. The research will take place over the next year, concluding in 2023.

[New chair appointed to determine where child services fit into NCS](#)

Prof Brigid Daniel, a leading expert in child protection, has reportedly been appointed to chair the independent research group determining where children's services fit into the National Care Service (NCS) reports the Herald.

[First hybrid Carers Parliament to take place on 9 November in Edinburgh](#)

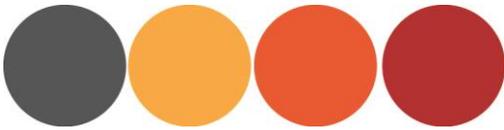
The ALLIANCE has highlighted the first hybrid Carers Parliament will take place on Tuesday 9 November in Edinburgh. The event will include carer and young carer speakers, a contribution from the Minister for Mental Wellbeing and Social Care, Kevin Stewart MSP and a panel including the Minister, the COSLA Health and Wellbeing Spokesperson, a carer and carers centre manager taking questions from carers and talking about their views of what needs to improve in support for carers. Online sessions for the Carers Parliament will also take place throughout November.

[New poll shows flexible working preferred by parents](#)

A new poll commissioned by national charity Working Families and specialist recruitment agency SF Recruitment show that working parents are more likely to apply for flexible working option jobs, reports Nursery World. The poll surveyed 992 UK parents of children aged under 18 from 21 different employers with 82% of parents reporting they would be likely to apply for a role with flexible working options. Furthermore 55% of working parents stated they would consider leaving their job if they found another, more flexible, option. The poll also highlighted how some parents are unable to work from home due to the nature of their jobs, suggesting employers think 'beyond home and hybrid-working.'

[Ofsted publish guidance on joint targeted inspections \(England\)](#)

Ofsted has published guidance in collaboration with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services on early help for families as part of their programme of work on joint targeted area inspections.

**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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