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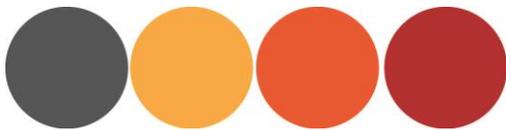
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Covid-19 - General

[Letters sent to next eligible groups for Covid booster and flu jab](#)

The Scottish Government is sending out invitation letters for the Covid-19 booster and flu jab to the next eligible groups. This includes flu vaccinations for children under 2 years old who have underlying health conditions, preschool children aged 2-5, all school pupils, pregnant women, and all NHS healthcare workers. For those in the underlying health conditions group, the type of health condition will guide whether they will be given a flu jab, the Covid-19 booster, or both vaccines.



Child Protection

[Charity campaigns with family for new law on restraint guidance](#)

ENABLE Scotland and Beth Morrison, whose son has learning disabilities, autism, and epilepsy, have launched a campaign for a new law to make guidance on the use of physical restraint in school settings legally enforceable with mandatory recording and reporting of all incidents, reports the BBC. The campaign for 'Calum's Law' also calls for compulsory training for all teachers and support staff in de-escalation and understanding children's needs to avoid the use of physical restraint. Labour MSP Daniel Johnson has said he is exploring the possibility of a members' bill in the Scottish Parliament.

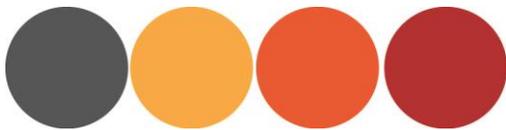
[Final report of Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse published \(England and Wales\)](#)

The UK Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse published its concluding report following 325 days of public hearings and engagement with 7,300 victims and survivors. Led by Professor Alexis Jay OBE, the Inquiry has made 20 recommendations to the government and other institutions, complementing [87 recommendations](#) contained in previously published investigation reports. The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse was established in 2015 to look at the extent to which institutions in England and Wales have discharged their duty to protect children from sexual abuse. Key themes to emerge include the frequent institutional reaction to protect personal and institutional reputations above the protection of children, with statutory agencies not informed, perpetrators 'moved on', failures by those in authority to thoroughly investigate allegations, and recommendations made following reviews infrequently implemented and sometimes ignored. It is noted that the scale and extent of child sexual abuse and child sexual exploitation are difficult to ascertain, while there is no consistent approach to the recording of data, including by key statutory agencies such as the police and local authorities. The report suggests that the different regimes in respect of inspection, regulation and workforce controls in England and Wales are "often confused", while inspection activity is "not routinely targeted at child protection". The Inquiry recommends the creation of Child Protection Authorities for England and Wales.

Education

[Independent review of qualifications and assessment public consultation published](#)

The Scottish Government has published the public consultation papers on behalf of Professor Hayward's independent review of qualifications and assessment. This reform will seek to ensure all learners' achievements are fairly recognised to afford every learner an enhanced and fair opportunity to demonstrate the breadth, depth, and relevance of their learning. Responses should be submitted to the consultation by Friday 16 December.



Health

[New study highlights the link between deprivation and early childhood death](#)

A study by researchers at Glasgow University has found children in deprived areas are 2.6 times more likely to die before their first birthday than children in less deprived areas, reports the Scotsman. The study is due to be published in full by the end of the year, however in the interim researchers have raised concerns that overall declining infant mortality and childhood obesity has obscured widening health inequalities for those in the most deprived areas. The study has also found an increase in the proportion of two-year-olds who had not been immunized against measles, mumps, and rubella in three of the five most deprived areas of Scotland.

[Report commissioned by Active Healthy Kids Global Alliance published](#)

A report commissioned by the Active Healthy Kids Global Alliance has compared 57 countries from six continents. It concluded that children in Scotland face socio-economic inequalities in low physical activity, high levels of screen time and high levels of obesity as early as primary one. It found while policies on activity and diet are of a high quality, they are not always fully implemented and there is a lack of specific policy on screen time.

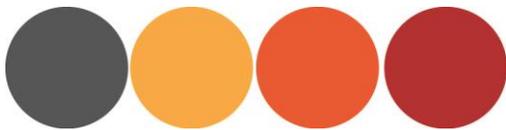
[Women required for discrimination and impact on young women's health study](#)

The Scottish Government, in partnership with the ALLIANCE, is progressing a new research study throughout October and December 2022 that will support the implementation of the Scottish Government's [Women's Health Plan](#). They are hosting a series of individual interviews with young women, girls and people who use women's services aged 16-25 years across Scotland to explore perceptions and experiences of discrimination and the impact on health for this age group. Interviews will last approximately 45 minutes and the Scottish Government will offer all participants a £30 shopping voucher as a thank-you for taking part in the study.

Justice

[Scottish Government updates Redress Scheme for historical abuse in care](#)

The Scottish Government has updated its list of organisations contributing to the Redress Scheme for historical abuse in care. The Charity Trustees of the Church of Scotland, including the Church of Scotland Social Care Council and its predecessors in connection with the relevant care settings operated on behalf of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland by CrossReach, has been added to list.



Looked After and Accommodated Children

[Care Experienced Week 23 – 29 October](#)

WhoCares? Scotland is hosting a variety of events as Care Experienced Week continues. The campaign this year acknowledges that Care Experienced people do not leave their experiences behind when they leave formal care.

[First Minister writes to the care community ahead of Care Experienced Week](#)

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon wrote to the care community ahead of Care Experienced Week, setting out her pledge to keep The Promise. The letter details a Who Cares? Scotland report, which builds on the review of the actions of the Promise Implementation Plan. The First Minister reaffirmed the commitments in the plan, including more support for families, staff, services and care experienced adults, and the introduction of legislation ending under 18s being placed in Young Offenders Institutions

[UK Parliament passes Carer's Leave Bill](#)

The UK Parliament has passed legislation which entitles unpaid carers across the UK up to one week of unpaid leave a year to support those most in need. The Carer's Leave Bill, which was introduced by Wendy Chamberlain, will mean eligible employees can take their leave regardless of how long they have worked for their employer. Employees will be able to take their leave flexibly and will not be required to provide evidence of how the leave is used.

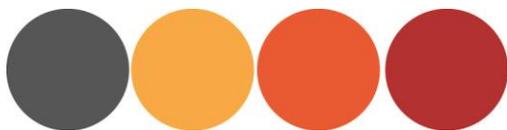
[Charity calls for more help for kinship carers](#)

The charity Kinship is calling for more government support for kinship carers during the cost-of-living crisis, reports Children and Young People Now. A survey released by Kinship revealed that four in ten kinship carers are skipping meals and using foodbanks due to a lack of government support. The survey also reports that 45% of carers had to give up jobs to care for their kinship children, with 58% borrowing money, using short term loans and credit cards. Meanwhile 59% said they would not be putting their heating on this winter, with 26% of those surveyed stating they will be unable to pay the bills. Kinship is urging the government to put kinship carers on an equal footing to foster carers and provide more support.

Mental Health

[SAMH report shows mental health support still happening remotely post-pandemic](#)

A survey by the Scottish Association of Mental Health (SAMH) has found most mental health support is still being carried out remotely two years into the pandemic. SAMH has published the findings in the final report of a longitudinal study investigating the impact of the Covid pandemic on people with existing mental health problems. It highlights only 13% of those surveyed had returned to face-to-face support, despite 54% saying they would like to, while 30% of those receiving mental



health treatment did not feel comfortable with remote delivery. SAMH has urged the Scottish Government not to forget people living with mental health problems as it drafts the new mental health strategy.

[Infant Mental Health Evidence Review published](#)

The Infant Mental Health Review, published by the Scottish Government, covers the key findings of a rapid literature review of UK research on infant mental health, in addition to interviews with members of infant mental health clinical teams in NHS Fife and NHS Lanarkshire. This report contributes to the Evaluability Assessment of the perinatal and infant mental health programme (PNIMH) for which Public Health Scotland were commissioned by the Perinatal and Infant Mental Health programme board in 2020.

Other Health and Social Care

[Care Inspectorate launches new young inspectors' animation](#)

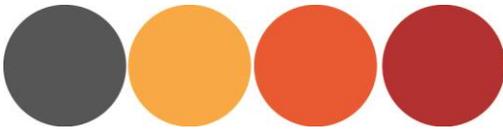
The Care Inspectorate has launched a new animation, co-designed with our volunteers, as part of Key Question 7 – a significant change to how we carry out inspections for services for children and young people. The animation explains what the changes are, focusing more on what really matters to young people and the quality of care they experience. It also demonstrates The Promise in action by making sure that our young people's voices authentically influence our work.

[SPICe publishes briefing on Human Rights Budgeting](#)

SPICe has published a briefing on human rights budgeting (HRB). The Scottish Government has proposed a Human Rights Bill which would enshrine many economic, social and cultural rights into Scots law but, according to the briefing, resources must be made available for those to be realised in practice. The briefing explains HRB is when budget decisions are determined by the impact on people's rights. Human rights principles can be applied to budgeting through both the process of setting a budget, driven by principles of transparency, participation, and accountability, as well as to the content of the budget. The briefing explores how HRB could work in practice through a case study group of people with learning disabilities.

[Call for evidence for the inspection, scrutiny and regulation of social care launched](#)

A call for evidence and stakeholder engagement has been launched to inform Independent Review of Inspection, Scrutiny and Regulation (IRISR). The Review aims to ensure a human rights and person-centred approach is central to the inspection and regulation of social care and will consider how this can be applied across linked services. The call for evidence invites people to share written views on how inspection and regulation can ensure social care support services can continually improve now and in the future. A range of in person and virtual engagement events will be held in November and December alongside the consultation



[New Prime Minister announced](#)

Liz Truss, leader of the Conservative party and Prime Minister resigned on Thursday 20 October after 45 days in office. Rishi Sunak was 'crowned' the new Prime Minister as there was no viable opposition from within the Conservative party. Mr Sunak was sworn in by King Charles on Tuesday 26 October and gave his first audience at Prime Ministers Questions on Wednesday 27 October.

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.