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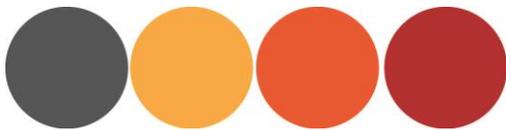
Covid-19 - General

[New Chair of Covid-19 Inquiry](#)

In a ministerial statement to the Scottish Parliament, the Deputy First Minister John Swinney has announced the new Chair of the Covid-19 Inquiry will be Lord Brailsford. The terms of reference will also be supplemented to require the Inquiry “To demonstrate how a human rights-based approach by the inquiry has contributed to the inquiry’s findings in fact and recommendations.”

[Amended face coverings guidance](#)

Scottish Government guidance for staff within acute hospitals, community hospitals, primary care and wider community healthcare has had text amendments made.



Child Protection

[SCRA publish annual report](#)

The Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA) has published its annual report for 2021-22. In the last year the administration has referred 10,494 children and held 21,909 children's hearings.

[Charity published analysis of child exploitation \(England/Wales\)](#)

The NSPCC has published an analysis of police-recorded crime data which finds child sexual exploitation crimes rose 10% in 2021-22 to a total of 17,486 in England and Wales. The number of Childline counselling sessions on sexual exploitation and abuse has increased from 5,962 to 6,230 this year between April 2021 to March 2022. NSPCC has launched [the Full Story](#) campaign in a bid to encourage more children and teenagers at risk of or suffering sexual exploitation to use Childline for immediate, confidential help.

Early Learning and Childcare

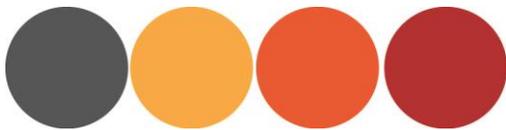
[SCMA publish response to consultation on the future of inspection of ELC](#)

The Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) has published its response to the Scottish Government consultation on the future of inspection of early learning and childcare and school-age childcare services. The association expresses concern with the current system of inspection, arguing the Care Inspectorate's methods are "not working for many childminders" and are often inconsistent. It highlights concerns from practitioners who feel there is often more of a focus on paperwork than care, noting 27% of all childminders have reported working an additional seven unpaid hours per week to cope with paperwork. The association notes the majority of childminders contacted as part of its response would support a national single/shared inspection complemented by a single/shared quality framework as a means to remove duplicative quality assurance at low levels.

Health

[Children and young people and the National Care Service recording now available](#)

A recording is now available from an engagement event on the potential inclusion of children and young people's services within the National Care Service (NCS). On Tuesday 18th October 2022, the ALLIANCE hosted an event about the Scottish Government's proposed National Care Service (NCS) and the potential inclusion of children and young people's services within the NCS. A recording of the event is now available on the [ALLIANCE's YouTube channel](#), with subtitles and BSL translation. The Scottish Government teams responsible for developing the NCS and considering the future delivery of children's services in Scotland. Paul Beaton, Head of the Children's Services Reform Unit, and Anna Kynaston, Deputy Director for the NCS, discussed the current work being done to ensure that children and young people are included in co-design of the NCS.



Looked After and Accommodated Children

[New animation for children and young people launched by Care Inspectorate](#)

This animation was co-designed with volunteers, as part of Key Question 7 – a significant change to how the Care Inspectorate carry out inspections for services for children and young people. It 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.

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

The Scottish Government has asked Centre for Excellence for Children's Care and Protection (CELCIS) to undertake independent research to improve the understanding of the current service delivery models in Scotland and internationally and their effectiveness in supporting the needs of children and their families. This 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 and aligns with the commitment to keep The Promise of the Independent Care Review.

[Closing on 4 November - call for views on Bairns' Hoose draft standards](#)

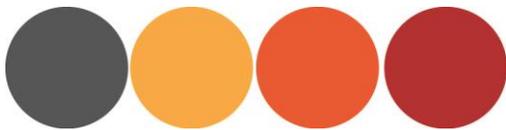
Healthcare Improvement Scotland and the Care Inspectorate are seeking the views of children and young people, as well as parents, carers, and professionals, on the new draft standards for the Bairns' Hoose initiative. This is based on the Barnahus model for a child-friendly, multi-professional and multi-agency centre for child victims and witnesses of violence or abuse. This can be done by completing a short survey or contacting the team by email at his.barnahusstandards@nhs.scot to send comments in a different format. The responses close on 4 November.

[Bright Spots programme: short film about care experienced and care leavers](#)

Centre for Excellence for Children's Care and Protection (CELCIS), in partnership with Coram Voice, launched a pilot of the Bright Spots programme in Scotland in January 2022. The programme offers a new opportunity for local authorities to respond to the views of care experienced children and young people through two subjective wellbeing surveys: 'Your Life, Your Care', for ages 4-18, and 'Your Life Beyond Care', for care leavers up to the age of 26.

[SIRCC conference: resilience and recovery in residential childcare 9-10 November](#)

Scottish Institute for Residential Child Care (SIRCC) annual conference is being held across two days, 9 – 10 November for all those working and living with, and within, the residential childcare community in Scotland. This will bring together practitioners to learn and develop, share experiences, good practice, and challenges. This year there will be two days of free online content, including webinars, workshops,



exhibitions, and opportunities to network, for both individuals and teams. There will be a keynote, titled 'Falling Apart and Hanging Together: Notes on Resilient Caregiving Organisations' will be delivered by Bill Kahn, PhD. Mr Kahn is an organisational psychologist and Department Chair and Professor of Management and Organizations at Boston University's Questrom School of Business.

[Strathclyde University project launches 'reservoir of hope'](#)

The University of Strathclyde led [Talking Hope](#) project is sharing how it is working towards hopeful futures and improved outcomes for Scotland's children and young people with significant support needs, with the launch of a [new website](#). Talking Hope connects experience, theory and practice through conversation and relationships, to find hope with children and young people who are in (or on the edges of) secure care. Following a break in 2020, the project launched phase three in October 2021, with emphasis on creating a toolkit in the form of a website, which became a 'hope reservoir'. The reservoir idea came from practitioners who wanted a space to hold onto hope for times when hope is running low.

[Criticism of lack of care experienced members of care review implementation board \(England\)](#)

The Department for Education has finalised the board responsible for implementing the Care Review recommendations, however sector leaders have criticised the lack of members with direct care experience, reports Children and Young People Now. Out of the seven members of the board only one appointee comes from a care experienced background.

Other Health and Social Care

[Conference on community social work \(8 November 2022\)](#)

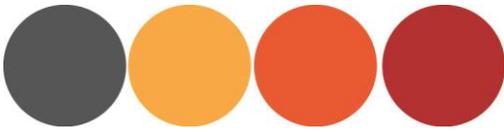
Iriss is highlighting an upcoming conference showcasing community social work in Dunfermline on 8 November 2022. Speakers include Iona Colvin, Chief Social Work Advisor, and Fiona Duncan, Chair of The Promise, who will be providing opening remarks.

[Impact of the cost-of-living crisis on disabled people and unpaid carers](#)

The ALLIANCE has published a report on the impact of the rising cost of living on disabled people, people with long term conditions and unpaid carers. The report highlights that the current crisis builds on and exacerbates existing inequalities, and longer-term action is needed to address root causes. Amongst other recommendations, the ALLIANCE is calling for the Scottish Government to offer emergency cost of living payments.

[Emergency budget published](#)

The Scottish Government has published their Emergency Budget Review: 2022 to 2023, including £400m "reprioritised" within the health and social care portfolio to



support the pay offer for NHS staff and to meet other pressures, and assurances that work continues in delivering a National Care Service and a commitment to fair work in adult social care.

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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