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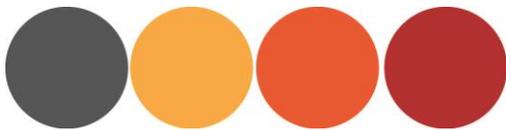
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Covid-19 - General

[Latest modelling of Covid-19 in Scotland published](#)

The Scottish Government has released the latest findings in modelling Covid-19 in Scotland. The report notes that the reproduction rate in Scotland is currently estimated as being between 0.8 and 1.0, and the number of new daily infections is estimated as being between 115 and 271 per 100,000 people (as at 8 November). The report also includes results from the most recent wave of the Scottish Contact Survey, noting a decrease in people's average contacts from the previous wave of the survey.



Additional Support Needs

[Concerns raised as government delays SEND review plans until 2023 \(England\)](#)

Early years leaders have raised concerns about further delays in improving support for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), after the government confirmed it will not respond to the SEND review until early next year, reports Children and Young People Now. The SEND and Alternative Provision green paper was [published in March](#) following the completion of the Department for Education's SEND review, which launched in 2019. It is being backed by £70m in funding and proposes the creation of new national standards across education, health and care to improve the SEND system. This is set to include a national framework for councils for banding and tariffs for high needs support.

[Autism charity launches petition to protect rights of children with SEND \(England\)](#)

Charity Ambitious about Autism has launched a petition urging MPs to use £2bn pledged to schools in the recent autumn statement to fund SEND support. Two thirds, 65%, of families say they are not happy with their autistic child's mainstream education, while over a third, 36%, of autistic pupils say they have been out of school against their wishes. There are more than twice as many children with SEND in schools and colleges now than there were in 2010, but the government has not set out what funding will be available to pay for the additional support they need.

Child Protection

[SCRA achieves silver equalities award](#)

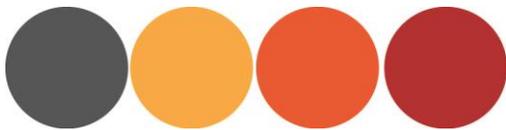
The Scottish Children's Reporter Administrator has been awarded the enei (the Employers Network for Equality & Inclusion) TIDE (Talent Inclusion & Diversity Evaluation) Silver Award Standard. TIDE is the enei's self-assessment evaluation and benchmarking tool, which measures an organisation's approach and progress on diversity and inclusion in areas such as workforce, planning, training and development. This is the second year SCRA has undertaken the equalities benchmarking assessment.

[Children 1st receive donation to Bairn's Hoose](#)

Children 1st has received a £100,000 donation from the Weir Group towards the Bairn's Hoose project. The money has helped meet the costs of converting a bungalow into a place where child victims and witnesses of crime can give evidence and receive support to recover from their ordeals.

[Children's Commissioners highlight failures to protect children's rights](#)

A joint report by the Children's Commissioners for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland raises areas of concern reports the Alliance. Ahead of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child's assessment of the UK's performance on children's rights,



the Children’s Commissioners for Scotland (Bruce Adamson), Wales (Rocío Cifuentes) and Northern Ireland (Koulla Yiasouma) [have published a joint report](#) expressing particular concerns about poverty, mental health, and the UK Government’s plans for a Rights Removal Bill. The report also draws attention to the impacts of the UK Government’s austerity policies and welfare reforms, which have had a significant detrimental impact on children, yet no comprehensive assessment has been made by the UK Government of their impacts. It also calls on the Scottish Government to take further action on social security using the powers devolved to it.

[Evidence to UK Parliament committee on child asylum seekers reported missing \(England\)](#)

Giving evidence to a [parliamentary cross-party joint committee on human rights session](#) held on 23 November, Laura Durán, head of policy, advocacy and research at Every Child Protected Against Trafficking (ECPAT), said that hotels used to house unaccompanied children are “effectively operating as unregulated children’s homes”, reports Children and Young People Now. Ms Durán highlighted that current figures indicate at least 222 children have gone missing from these hotels while under the care of the Home Office since October last year, adding it is likely that many of the missing children are victims of human trafficking. The joint committee is examining the current rules and policies relating to child asylum seekers, including age assessments, family reunification, and the use of unregulated hotel accommodation by the Home Office.

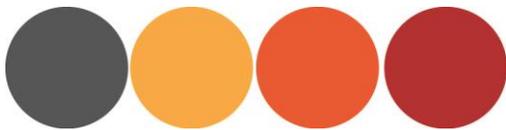
Early Learning and Childcare

[SCMA highlight Christmas charities 2022](#)

The Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) have highlighted two charities, the [Baltic Street Adventure Playground](#) (BSAP), and [Beautiful Inside and Out](#) as the two charities that they will be making Christmas donations to in 2022. BSAP is a local charity, which was setup in 2013 to address the lack of play space and out of school provision in the Dalmarnock area of Glasgow, to help improve the wellbeing of children and families in the community. Beautiful Inside and Out is local charity, based in South Ayrshire, which provides bespoke counselling and bereavement support to parents and young people in crisis.

[SCMA has published latest workforce survey](#)

The Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) has published their annual independent Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) Audit 2022, which they are commissioned to undertake by the Scottish Government. The Audit warns that the “devastating” impact which the implementation of the expansion of ELC funded hours policy has already had on the professional childminding workforce in Scotland could worsen further. While presenting new data, the Audit also highlights important interventions which if implemented urgently could support childminder recruitment and retention around Scotland.



[Ofsted statistics shows decline of nurseries in one year \(England\)](#)

There has been a net loss of 300 nurseries in the past year in England, according to the latest Ofsted statistics, with the number of childminders joining the sector the lowest recorded. On 31 August, there 65,600 childcare providers registered with Ofsted, a decrease of 5,400 since 31 August 2021. However, while the number of providers has fallen by 8 per cent since 31 August 2021, the number of places has declined by 2%. Most of the decline is due to a decrease in childminders, with 5,600 leaving and only 1,500 joining the sector.

[New action group launched for Early Years Sector \(England\)](#)

The Early Years Equality action group has been setup in reaction to the Chancellor Jeremy Hunt's autumn statement, which provided no support for the sector, and included an announcement that the national living wage will rise by more than 9% in April. The aim of the group is to bring childcare providers together to collectively campaign for better funding to save further settings from closure, and to ensure the sector's voices are better heard by the Government long-term.

Education

[UCAS publish report on care experienced students](#)

UCAS has published a new report, 'What is the experience of students from a care background in education?', which highlights the challenges often faced by care-experienced applicants when thinking about, and moving into, higher education. Currently, just 13% of care leavers enter Higher Education by their 19th birthday, compared to 45% of the wider population. In its final report earlier this year, the Independent Review of Children's Social Care set out a 'mission' to double this proportion by 2026. In England alone, 41% of care leavers aged 19-21 were not in education, employment, or training (NEET) in 2021, compared to 12% of all young people, with similar figures seen for Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland.

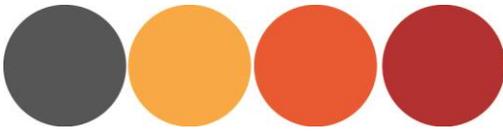
[New school pupil support programme launched in Glasgow](#)

Children missing from school for long periods will be supported instead of being punished under a new pilot programme in Glasgow, reports the BBC. Overall school attendance has dropped across Scotland since the disruption of the Covid pandemic. Under the new scheme, psychologists and community workers will visit homes to help pupils overcome anxiety, stress and mental health issues.

. The 12-month pilot will initially target children who attend school less than 60% of the time and is expected to work one-on-one with at least 250 pupils from secondary and primary school.

[Scottish secondary schools to close again as teachers strike](#)

Thousands of secondary school students are facing another day off school as teachers' unions formally rejected the latest pay deal, reports the BBC. East Ayrshire Council said all its secondary schools would be closed because of next week's (7-8



December) strike by the SSTA and NASUWT unions. Inverclyde Council said most of its secondary schools would be closed to S1, S2 and S3 students.

Health

[Children's Services Research group terms of reference published](#)

The Scottish Government has published terms of reference for the Children's Services Research independent steering group. The primary objective of the research steering group will be to oversee the research conducted by CELCIS to consider the different models of delivery in children's services to help inform the decision about children's services in the context of the establishment of the National Care Service.

Looked After and Accommodated Children

[Care Inspectorate publish fostering and adoption statistics for 2021-22](#)

The Fostering and Adoption statistical report 2021-22 is based on data collected by the Care Inspectorate from service providers in their annual returns over the last five years from 2017 to 2021. The report outlines data about adoption and fostering services in Scotland. This year summaries are provided in each section to help readers understand the statistics within the wider policy and legislative context. Key findings include a continuing decline in foster care households in Scotland with 405 households deregistering in 2021, as well as not all family groups of children being placed together with 70% of services stating they had difficulties in 2021 recruiting households that will take family groups of children. The report also highlights that there continues to be a decrease in children and young people using adoption services, however there was an increase in adoption breakdowns with 2021 having 37 adoption breakdowns, the most than in any of the four years previous.

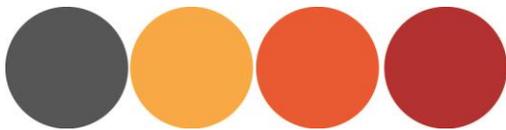
Mental Health

[MHF report finds college students report significant symptoms of depression](#)

The Mental Health Foundation has published a new study of college students' mental health and wellbeing in Scotland. With over 2000 survey responses this is the largest study into the mental health and wellbeing of college students in Scotland ever undertaken. The study found that 64% of participants reported low wellbeing, with a further 37% of respondents reporting food insecurity in the past 12 months. The study also noted that younger students, aged 16-20 years old, had higher levels of bullying and older students, aged 30+ years old, had higher levels of food insecurity.

[New guidance published to support local action on suicide prevention](#)

Public Health Scotland (PHS) has published three new pieces of guidance to support local action on suicide prevention. The guidance has been developed in partnership



with local suicide prevention leads, those with lived and living experience, and other stakeholders. The suite of guidance includes:

- [National Guidance on Identifying and Responding to a Suicide Cluster](#)
- [National Guidance on Action to Address Suicides at Locations of Concern](#)
- [National Guidance on Managing the Risks of Public Memorials After a Probable Suicide](#)

Other Health and Social Care

[RCN to consult members in Scotland on revised pay offer from Scottish Government](#)

The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) will consult its members in Scotland on the Scottish Government's pay offer. Members employed on an NHS Scotland Agenda for Change will be asked if they accept or reject the revised pay offer which includes a pay increase of different percentages depending on the band they are on.

[Applications now open for Leading Digital Transformation in Health and Care](#)

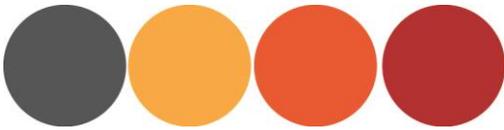
NES (NHS Education for Scotland) has announced that the Leading Digital Transformation in Health and Care for Scotland is now open for applications. The master's level programme will be delivered by the University of Edinburgh and led by NES. Scottish Government funding has been provided for year one (PGCert) and year two (PGDip) for up to 60 participants. The application deadline is 15 January 2023.

[SSSC announces next steps for making changes to its Register](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has confirmed changes to its Register will go ahead following approval from the SSSC Council. The SSSC is working on plans for implementing the changes over the next 18 months and will announce details and timescales over the coming months. The SSSC is due to complete the changes to the Register, qualifications, and Codes of Practice by 2024

[Iriss to host event on commissioning social care and support](#)

Iriss will host an online event on creative approaches to commissioning social care and support. The event will take place on 13 December and includes speakers Pauline Lunn, Director of In Control Scotland; Ian Thomson, NHS Highland's Head of Service for Quality Assurance in Adult Social Care; Louise Bowen, Development Lead for Iriss; and Josie Vallely, Development Lead and Service Designer for Iriss.

**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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