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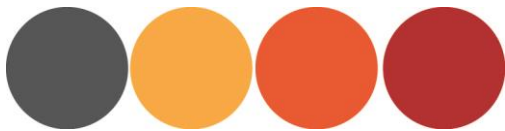
Covid-19 - General

[PPE advice for unpaid carers](#)

The UK Government's Department of Health and Social Care has published guidance on personal protective equipment (PPE) for unpaid carers in the community. The guidance shows which PPE to wear depending on how you are caring for someone, and how to use your PPE safely to help protect yourself and the people you care for.

[Autumn Covid-19 vaccine booster advised](#)

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) has advised that plans should be made for those at higher risk of severe COVID-19 to be offered a booster vaccination this autumn.



Child Protection

[SCRA publish podcast on The Promise](#)

The Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA) has published a podcast featuring interviews with board members of Our Hearings, Our Voice on keeping The Promise. The podcast also highlights that there will be a progress report on The Promise published in February 2023.

[Blog published on how Scotland can use data to 'Keep The Promise'](#)

The Fraser of Allander Institute (FAI) has published a blog which outlines how Scotland can use data to Keep The Promise. The Promise Scotland are seeking to build a "cohesive central picture of all data on the processes and systems that directly and indirectly impact on children and their families", in order to achieve this, The Promise Scotland funded an initial programme of work investigating what data is collected by a small number of key stakeholders, how it is used and how it relates to the priorities of children and families with experience of the care system.

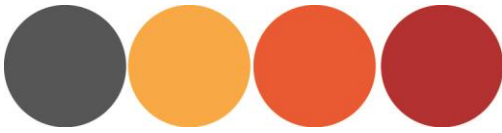
Early Learning and Childcare

[Childminder survey published](#)

The Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) has published the results of a survey of childminders on the cost of living and business sustainability. The survey highlighted that 83% of all childminders who took part believe that cost of living increases are the greatest risk to their business sustainability. Furthermore, over 60% of those surveyed believe they will have to reduce heating their setting this winter when children are present and may also have to switch the heating off in their family home outwith their normal working hours just to be able to continue to heat their setting when it is open and children are attending. Only 13% of all childminders surveyed believe they will be able to pay themselves the Real Living Wage (RLW) at the higher new rate of £10.90 per hour from September 2022.

[Financial Sustainability Health Check 2023 - survey for childminding services](#)

The Scottish Government is undertaking an update of the Financial Sustainability Health Check exercise and would like to hear from registered childcare services. To support this, a [revised survey](#) of all registered childminding services was launched on 20 January 2023. The survey asks for a range of information including on costs of delivery, income, capacity, charging and staffing. The survey is open until midnight on Wednesday 8 February 2023.



Health

[HIS launch consultation on draft scope for gender identity healthcare services](#)

Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS) has launched a consultation on the draft scope for its gender identity healthcare services standards for adults and young people. The standards will take a multi-disciplinary, person-centred, and trauma-informed approach to engagement and development. This will ensure that those seeking gender identity healthcare services access and receive a consistent, informed, and appropriate level of care. The consultation closes on Monday 13 February.

Justice

[Committee lead designated for Children \(Care and Justice\) \(Scotland\) Bill](#)

The Education, Children and Young People Committee has been designated as the lead committee, and that the Criminal Justice Committee has been designated as a secondary committee, in consideration of the Children (Care and Justice) (Scotland) Bill at Stage 1.

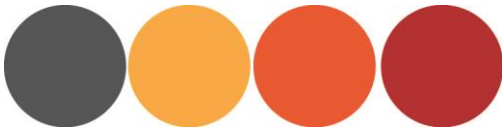
Looked After and Accommodated Children

[New report finds children in foster care worry about family life \(England\)](#)

Children in foster care are more likely to be concerned about their family life than other children according to a new report published by the children's commissioner for England, Rachel de Souza, and children's charity Coram. The report highlights that children aged nine to 17 living in foster care were found to be more worried about various aspects of their life than other children, with 18% saying they were worried about getting on well with their current family, in comparison to 14% of other children. The report also found that 24% of nine- to 17-year-olds were worried about a good education, compared with 18% of other children. The report also noted that some children would like their foster carers to be able to grant them permission to participate in activities without approval from children's services.

[London borough to recognise care experienced as a protected characteristic \(England\)](#)

Lambeth Borough Council is the latest local authority to vote to treat care experience as a protected characteristic, becoming the first London borough to do so, reports Children and Young People Now. The motion, brought forward by Councillor Ben Kind, cabinet member for children and young people, was passed at a full council meeting on 25 January, after similar motions were passed at various councils across the UK.



Maternity and Baby

[National survey shows decline in positive maternity experiences](#)

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has published the findings of a national survey on maternity experiences drawing on responses from 20,900 women who gave birth in February 2022. At a national level the 2022 maternity survey shows that people's experiences of care have deteriorated in the last five years. The survey also highlighted that some maternity services haven't returned to pre-pandemic levels including care during labour and birth and postnatal care at home and in hospital. Hospital discharge and Mental Health were among the few sectors that had seen improvement. Since 2017, discharge rates have increased from 55% to 62% in 2022, with women and other people who had recently given birth reporting that there was no delay with their discharge from hospital. 85% of women and pregnant people surveyed stated that they were given enough mental health support during their pregnancy, an improvement on 83% in 2021. Despite these improvements, there were several key areas for improvement identified, these include a fall in postnatal care, a decrease in help from the antenatal care teams and a fall in confidence and trust to highlight a few.

[Baby loss memory box charity facing closure](#)

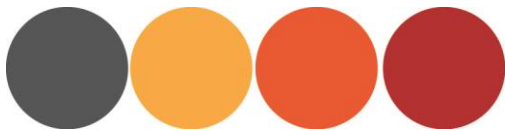
SiMBA, is a charity set up in 2005 to honour memories of babies who have died, been still born, or miscarried. They provide memory boxes to bereaved parents to help them process the loss with support. Due to the cost-of-living crisis and lack of fundraising and no regular Government funding the charity is facing closure within three months. They have helped provide support to over 50,000 families since their creation.

[Paid miscarriage leave petition launched ahead of second Bill reading in March](#)

Under current laws if a baby is stillborn after 24 weeks of pregnancy, or dies shortly after birth, employees are legally entitled to maternity or paternity leave and pay. However, if a pregnancy loss is suffered before 24 weeks it is up to the employer to decide to provide any paid leave. SNP MP Angela Crawley raised a private member bill in UK Parliament to grant three days statutory paid leave to parents suffering loss. Despite being passed at the first reading it was stalled at the second reading in December 2022 and will now be heard in March 2023. A petition has been launched in the interim.

[Health visitor shortage leads to children missing reviews](#)

The Institute of Health Visiting Health visitors (iHV) report that one in five children are missing out on vital health reviews, with England facing an estimated shortfall of 5,000 practitioners. The report highlights that only 3% of health visitors in England provide all families with continuity of health visits, this contrasts to 88% in Scotland. Furthermore, only 37% of health visitors in England felt confident that they are providing a 'good' or 'outstanding service' that can adequately safeguard children which contrasts with 60% in Scotland. The report lists various policy



recommendations to try and improve health visiting in England to reach levels seen across the rest of the UK.

Other Health and Social Care

[Charity publish new report on child poverty in the UK](#)

A new report published by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) highlights that a million children under the age of four are growing up in poverty. The report, UK Poverty 2023: The essential guide to understanding poverty in the UK, is based on Government data covering the first year of the pandemic. The report shows that 13.4 million people were in poverty during 2020/21, including 3.9 million children. Of these, 1.3m were primary school children and 1m children under the age of four. The report also highlights that 18% of children were living in persistent poverty, spending three of the last four years in poverty. Further data showed that 40% of children living in poverty were from a single parent household.

[RPS publish paper on how pharmacies can tackle health inequalities](#)

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) has published a position paper which sets out what pharmacies can do to tackle health inequalities. The paper is designed to provide a reference source for pharmacy teams to use over time to continually improve services.

[Ukrainian Refugees rehomed from cruise ship](#)

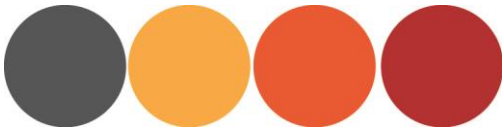
Ukrainian refugees living on a cruise ship in Glasgow are to be rehomed as the Scottish Government's contract with the vessel comes to an end, reports BBC. The MS Ambition has been home to around 1,1740 people, including 420 children, since September 2022. The government has said the ship was contracted on a short-term basis and will end on the 31 March.

[NMC asks its council to approve changes to the education programme](#)

The Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) are asking its Council to approve changes to registration education programme standards that will give educators the flexibility to deliver courses at the cutting edge of nursing and midwifery education. Since leaving the European Union (EU) the NMC are no longer required to include some European regulations in their standards and are making changes to enable a broader range of students to join the register with the knowledge and skills to provide safe, effective and kind care for people.

[Human Rights Committee publish report on Bill of Rights \(England\)](#)

The Joint Committee of Human Rights have published the ninth report of session from 2022-2023 for the Bill of Rights. The report warns the government's proposals to replace the Human Rights Act and change how human rights are protected in the UK would create large scale uncertainty and seriously damage people's ability to enforce their rights. It calls on the government to reconsider the majority of the Bill of



Rights Bill, calling into question the wisdom of proceeding with the legislation at all. The Bill of Rights is set to replace the Human Rights Act 1998 (HRA).

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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