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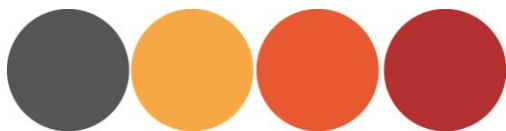
## **Covid-19 - General**

### [Weekly flu and Covid-19 surveillance report published](#)

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has published its weekly national flu and Covid-19 surveillance report. The report provides surveillance data up to end of week 5 (9 February), noting that in week 5 swab positivity for flu decreased to 2.7% compared to 3.3% in week 4.

### [Updated Covid-19 guidance for Health Protection Teams](#)

Public Health Scotland (PHS) has updated its Covid-19 guidance for healthcare protection teams (HPTs). The updated guidance includes sections on non-healthcare settings, workplace and community settings risk assessment, and workplace and community settings management.



### [Covid- 19 Recovery Committee publishes responses on long Covid services](#)

The Covid-19 Recovery Committee has published responses from the [Thistle Foundation](#) and [NHS National Services Scotland](#) on long Covid services. In its letter, the Thistle Foundation notes that it has received £250K funding from Scottish Government to set up a national development programme which aims to reshape rehabilitation services for people living with long-term health conditions including the long-term impacts of Covid-19. NHS National Services Scotland have provided a summary of the achievements of the Scottish Long Covid National Strategic Network (NSN) which was developed to provide national support to building the capacity, capability and co-ordination of health and social care services for people with long term effects of Covid-19.

### **Early Learning and Childcare**

#### [Recovery play survey for early learning and childcare settings](#)

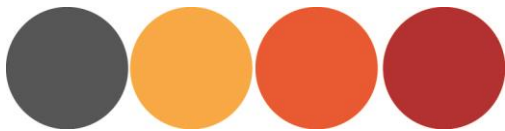
The Care Inspectorate are conducting a survey to help gain a better understanding of how it feels for staff and leaders in the ELC sector. The results will be used to look at how the Care Inspectorate and others can provide further support. Revisiting the survey in future will allow us to see what has changed. The survey is anonymous and will not identify any individual or setting by name. The survey will be analysed to identify further areas where support is needed. If comments are provided, these may be quoted in reports and practice notes, but with no way to identify the source. The deadline for completing this survey is Tuesday 14 March.

#### [Setting the Table nutritional guidance publication delayed](#)

The Scottish Government has delayed the refreshed "Setting the Table nutritional guidance and food standards for early years" guidance until Autumn 2023. This is to take account of the latest advice from Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition (SACN), due to be published Summer 2023. SACN, responsible for advising on nutrition and related health matters, is currently undertaking a review on "Feeding young children aged 1 to 5 years" that may have implications for the nutritional advice within the Setting the Table publication. The ELC sector is recommended to continue the current version of [Setting the Table](#) (2018) until the revised document is published. For up-to-date advice on choking in young children please refer to Food Standards Agency's [Early Years Food Choking Hazards](#) and Care Inspectorate's [Good practice guidance: prevention and management of choking episodes in babies and children](#).

#### [Nuffield Foundation publish priority for Early years research \(England\)](#)

The Nuffield Foundation has published priorities for future early years research ahead of funding deadlines for 2023. Included in the priorities are the need for research on the impact of interconnected challenges faced by young children and their families, to address the crisis in early childhood education and care, and to find out what support works best for families.



## Education

### [Deadline to apply for School Age Payment](#)

The deadline for families to apply for the Best Start Grant School Age Payment is 28 February 2023. This one-off £267.65 payment is currently open to eligible families with a child born between 1 March 2017 and 28 February 2018. Parents and carers – including those who have deferred their child's entry to school from August 2022 to August 2023 - must still apply before the closing date or they will miss the opportunity to access the School Age Payment.

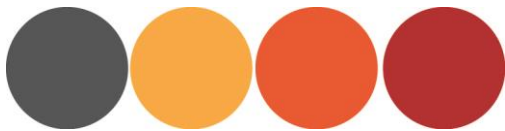
## Maternity and Baby

### [Births to care experienced teenagers and women in Scotland report published](#)

The Why Not? Trust for Care Experienced Young People (a charity supported by Care Visions) commissioned the Centre for Excellence for Children's Care and Protection (CELCIS), to produce an estimate of the number of pregnancies and births per year to care experienced teenagers and women aged 14 to 24 in Scotland. The work was commissioned to better inform the Trust's work as currently there is no precise measure available. The statistical research estimates that approximately 400-600 births per year in Scotland are to care experienced teenagers and women aged 14-24, with the majority of the babies born some years after the teenagers or young women have left care. The report also evaluated several other studies to highlight that there are services that should be improved. These include supporting pregnancy and preparing teenagers and young women for their baby's arrival; helping with the mental and physical experience of having a termination; and it identified continued need for all young women to have access to health education and contraception.

### [New research shows most health claims of baby formula not backed by evidence](#)

The British Medical Journal (BMJ) published research where it found that nutritional benefits cited by multibillion-dollar industry lacked scientific references, reports the Guardian. Most health claims on formula milk products have little or no supporting evidence, researchers have said, prompting calls for stricter marketing rules to be introduced worldwide. The study found that existing marketing curbs on formula milk are failing to stop companies from using controversial claims to promote their products. The research examined formula products across 15 different countries, including the UK, and found that most products carried at least one health or nutrition claim. Where references were provided, 56% reported findings of clinical trials while the rest were reviews, opinion pieces or other types of research including animal studies. Only 14% of citations that referred to clinical trials were prospectively registered, and 90% of claims that cited registered clinical trials carried a high risk of bias. The BMJ added that 88% of registered trials had authors who either had received formula industry funding or were directly affiliated with industry.



### [Charity calls for greater investment in health visiting for new-born babies \(England\)](#)

NSPCC have called for earlier face-to-face health visits for new-born babies after nearly 100,000 new-born babies didn't receive their first health visit within the recommended 14 first days last year, according to new analysis of data from the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID). Between 2021 and 2022, only 83% of families received their first health visit within 14 days. This is down from the previous year, when 88% received them within the first two weeks. The Institute of Health Visiting recently highlighted that 60% of health visitors are reporting further increases in child safeguarding concerns over the last year.

### **Looked After and Accommodated Children**

#### [Care Day, 17 February 2023](#)

Care Day 2023 is Friday the 17th of February, the world's biggest celebration of people with care experience. The theme for this year is 'Challenge Stigma', WhoCares? Scotland has produced a number of resources and ways for people to get involved with the day. You can get involved on social media by sharing how you are challenging stigma and use the hashtags #CareDay23 and #ChallengingStigma.

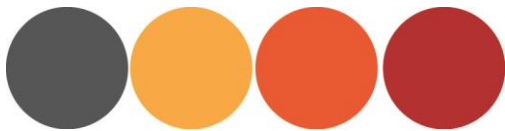
#### [Call to roll out Covid style small family bubbles across youth custody \(England\)](#)

The Youth Custody Service (YCS) is being urged to consider reorganising young offenders in custody into "small family groups" after a study found they benefitted children when used during the Covid-19 pandemic. The Covid-19 Research and Evaluation Report highlighted that the reorganisation of young people into small residential bubbles, "allowed more personalised interaction with staff that had helped develop relationships". The general evaluation suggests that YCS consider how this use of small family bubbles can be rolled out to retain the benefits seen throughout the pandemic. The evaluation collected the views of more than 1,200 staff and almost 400 children between July and November 2020.

### **Mental Health**

#### [New research shows almost half of secondary school pupils miss out on hobbies](#)

New research published by Ipsos, commissioned by Children in Scotland surveyed 1500 young people aged 11 to 18 years old about clubs and activities they took part in after school and at the weekend. The research showed that 54% of young people of secondary school age said that they take part in a club or activity outside of school. This dropped to 45% among secondary school aged children living in the areas of highest deprivation, compared with 65% in the most affluent areas. The survey results are part of a wider campaign by Children in Scotland to call on the Scottish Government to introduce a national hobby premium to ensure all children and young people in Scotland have free access to a hobby or activity of their choosing.



## Other Health and Social Care

### [Nicola Sturgeon resigns as First Minister of Scotland](#)

Nicola Sturgeon has announced she will be stepping down as Scotland's First Minister due to personal reasons. Ms Sturgeon will remain in post until a successor has been appointed.

### [Committee publishes report on the National Care Service \(Scotland\) Bill](#)

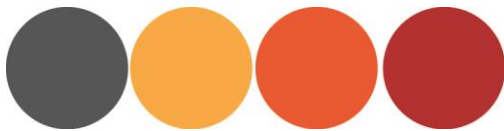
The Scottish Parliament's Criminal Justice Committee has published a report on its consideration of the National Care Service (Scotland) Bill. The Criminal Justice Committee is one of four secondary committees appointed to consider various parts of the Bill relevant to their own remit and report any conclusions and recommendations to the lead committee. In its report, the Criminal Justice Committee noted the frustration and concern felt by non-government witnesses around the lack of detail in the Bill, and that this prevented witnesses from making an assessment of the possible impacts of the NCS on criminal justice social work services.

### [A public health approach to ending violence against women and girls](#)

Public Health Scotland (PHS) has published a paper describing a public health approach to ending violence against women and girls (VAWG). The paper highlights the actions and conditions needed to prevent VAWG including embedding a public health approach across all systems. PHS commits to raising awareness and informing a public health approach to VAWG in Scotland, advocating for local and national policy, collective actions and leadership to prioritise prevention, working collaboratively with partners to implement a public health approach, and working with partners to enable new data collections and surveillance.

### [New NMC policy for displaced people applying to join the register](#)

The Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) has published a new policy to support displaced people to join the register. The new policy covers forcibly displaced people and outlines how the NMC will work with eligible applicants to take into account alternative evidence that shows how they meet NMC standards when applying to join the register. The NMC has noted that it will consider alternative evidence in exceptional circumstances and when it is safe to do so, and it will make decisions on a case-by-case basis.

**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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