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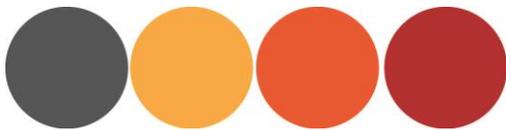
Covid-19 - General

[Booster programme for spring](#)

The Scottish Government has announced residents in care homes for older adults are receiving their spring Covid-19 booster following recent advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI). A spring booster dose will also be offered to those aged 75 and over from 11 April and individuals aged five and over with a weakened immune system from 24 April.

[Funding application process reopens for Inquiry](#)

The Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry has announced that it has reopened its core participant and funding application process for its health and social care investigations. The Inquiry is inviting concurrent core participant and funding applications from parties with an interest in health and social care until 11.59pm on 14 April 2023.



Child Protection

[Research highlights need for Bairns' Hoose model](#)

A report by the University of Edinburgh examines professionals' views about how children and families affected by abuse and neglect have experienced justice, child protection, health and recovery services in Scotland. The research revealed that services were not meeting the diverse range of needs of children and families after abuse or maltreatment, and in some cases were contributing to trauma. Lead author Dr Mary Mitchell said: "The development of the Bairns Hoose provides an opportunity to better understand the challenges of moving from vision to implementation of the Bairns' Hoose model locally, and subsequently with the national roll-out. This report provides insight into the systems as they are currently for children who have experienced maltreatment, and the mechanisms and contexts important when aiming to transform existing systems."

[Child abuse inquiry resumes expert evidence](#)

The Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry will resume hearing expert evidence relating to Phase 1 of its investigations in May 2023. Evidence from a range of experts will cover the development of regulatory and social policy in relation to the provision of residential care for children in Scotland, evolution of inspection systems, and the state of knowledge about abuse within government.

Disability

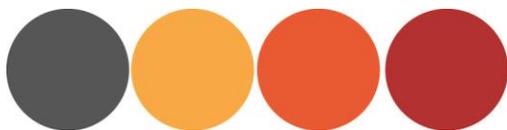
[Overview of ELC provision for children with learning disabilities](#)

A new overview report is available on the provision of early learning and childcare for children with profound and multiple learning disabilities with a life-limiting or life-threatening condition. The report, by the Scottish Centre for Children with Motor Impairments and Indigo Childcare Group, highlights that children with highly complex disabilities and intensive health care needs are often not able to access their entitlement and are missing out on potentially life long benefits, while their parents are experiencing mental health problems, isolation and are unable to work.

Early Learning and Childcare

[Inspection consultation outcomes published](#)

The Scottish Government has published its response, as well as analysis of all responses, to the recent consultation on early learning and childcare and school age childcare services inspections. The Scottish Government said the responses make clear the need for change and the importance of ensuring rapid progress, in tandem with wider reforms in the education system. They welcome the news that the Care



Inspectorate and the new education inspectorate will be ready to implement the new shared inspection framework at the start of their 2024 inspection years.

Education

[Summary of National Improvement Framework for education](#)

A summary of the National Improvement Framework and improvement plan for Scottish education has been published. The NIF sets out the vision and priorities for education that have been agreed across the system, and the national improvement activity that needs to be undertaken to help deliver those key priorities. This information can then be used to support and inform improvement planning at regional, local authority and school or early years' level.

Justice

[SCRA Victim Information Service annual report](#)

The Scottish Children's Reporter Administration has published the latest Victim Information Service annual report. The report includes information about the work of the two Victim Information Co-ordinators, some key statistics from 2022 and plans for future work.

[Report published on the financial impact on families of imprisonment and release](#)

A report published by the abrdn Financial Fairness Trust states that the burden of care and costs associated with supporting someone in prison in Scotland falls disproportionately on women. The report notes that many women spend half their income or more in costs relating to their family member's imprisonment, and that many children and women were not able to take part in social activities during the imprisonment of family members.

Looked After and Accommodated Children

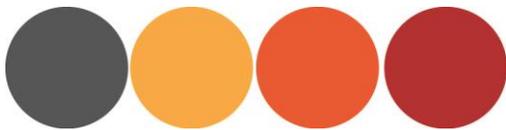
[New petition urging response to Adoption Barometer response](#)

A new Scottish Parliament petition is calling for the Scottish Government to formally respond to the annual Adoption Barometer Report undertaken by Adoption UK. The petition highlights the Adoption Barometer is an annual snapshot of the state of adoption in the UK and contains recommendations for the Scottish Government which, if implemented, could significantly improve the lives of adoptive families and children waiting to be adopted. The petition is currently collecting signatures.

Other Health and Social Care

[Poverty levels in Scotland remain stable](#)

The Scottish Government has published the latest poverty statistics, which show little recent change in poverty levels for children, working-age adults and pensioners.



Persistent poverty was shown to be gradually increasing, with the material deprivation measure continuing to be affected by the pandemic. Overall, two of the four child poverty measures in the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act – relative and absolute poverty – were broadly stable.

[Second national human rights action plan](#)

The second Scottish National Action Plan on human rights (SNAP2) has been published, setting out 54 practical actions to be delivered by Scottish public bodies, civil organisations and rights holders. It follows SNAP1 which was published in 2017. Delivery of the first plan was interrupted by the pandemic and the new plan has been developed following wide ranging engagement and data gathering.

[Equality Evidence Strategy 2023-25](#)

The Equality Evidence Strategy for 2023 to 2025 has been published. The strategy sets out the Scottish Government's approach to improving and strengthening Scotland's equality evidence base over a three year period. It aims to deliver better equality evidence that will enable policymakers to develop inclusive policies to improve service delivery and improve outcomes.

[Planning changes aim to boost outdoor play](#)

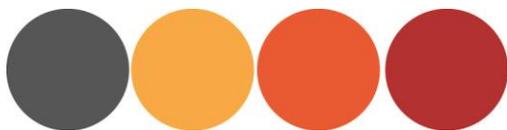
Planning reforms have been introduced to encourage local authorities to support planning applications for the development of play spaces, parks and sports facilities. The Scottish Government hopes the changes will increase opportunities for outdoor activity and help implement a commitment to incorporate the rights of children and young people into Scots law. New regulations are also being introduced to require local authorities to assess the adequacy of play spaces and consult local children and communities.

Other

[New First Minister and ministerial team](#)

Humza Yousaf was elected leader of the SNP this week and formally sworn in as First Minister. He confirmed the appointment of his Cabinet and ministerial team, including:

- Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Shona Robison
- Cabinet Secretary for NHS Recovery, Health and Social Care, Michael Matheson
- Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills, Jenny Gilruth
- Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice Shirley-Anne Somerville
- Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs Angela Constance
- Minister for Children, Young People and Keeping the Promise, Natalie Don
- Minister for Community Wealth and Public Finance, Tom Arthur
- Minister for Local Government Empowerment and Planning, Joe FitzPatrick
- Minister for Public Health and Women's Health, Jenni Minto



- Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport, Maree Todd
- Minister for Drugs and Alcohol Policy, Elena Whitham
- Minister for Equalities, Migration and Refugees Emma Roddick
- Minister for Housing Paul McLennan
- Minister for Victims and Community Safety Siobhian Brown

The new First Minister is expected to outline his government's priorities on Tuesday 18 April.

[New Chief Executive for COSLA](#)

COSLA has announced Jane O'Donnell as its new Chief Executive, replacing current Chief Executive Sally Loudon who leaves COSLA in June after seven years in the job. Jane O'Donnell has been working in Scottish Local Government for over 25 years but is currently working with Scottish Government as the Deputy Director for Community Empowerment, Reform and Governance.

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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