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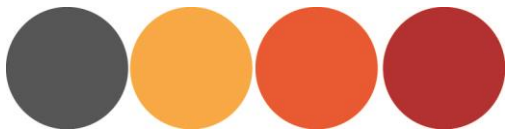
## Covid-19 - General

### [Chief Executive appointed for Scottish Covid-19 inquiry](#)

The Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry has appointed Ian Duddy as its Chief Executive. As Chief Executive, Mr Duddy will be the Inquiry's most senior official and will be responsible and accountable for the administration and management of the Inquiry. Mr Duddy will join the independent Inquiry from the Scottish Human Rights Commission, where he is currently Chair.

### [New investigations for UK Covid inquiry](#)

The Chair of the UK Covid-19 Inquiry has set out plans to open three further investigations in 2023 and confirmed they aim to conclude public hearings by summer 2026. The three new investigations will examine vaccines, therapeutics and anti-viral treatment across the UK, Government Procurement across the UK, and the care sector across the UK. It has also been [announced](#) that another preliminary hearing for the investigation into core political and administrative decision making by the UK Government, will take place on Tuesday 6 June 2023.



## **Additional Support Needs**

### [Concern over funding for ASN pupils](#)

The Scottish Children's Services Coalition has raised concerns about resources spent on supporting pupils with additional support needs. The alliance said it had identified a spending cut of £1,870 per pupil since 2012-13, also highlighting a "postcode lottery" of spending by local authorities across the country

## **Child Protection**

### [Final standards for Bairns' Hoose published](#)

The Care Inspectorate and Healthcare Improvement Scotland has published the final standards for the Bairns' Hoose model. Based on an Icelandic model, the overall vision of a Bairns' Hoose (Barnahus) in Scotland is that all children in Scotland who have been victims or witnesses to abuse or violence, as well as children under the age of criminal responsibility whose behaviour has caused significant harm or abuse, will have access to trauma informed recovery, support and justice. A version of the standards for children and young people is also available. The Scottish Government has [announced](#) that five multi-agency test sites will be created with learning from the sites providing a blueprint for a full pilot of Bairns' Hoose in 2025.

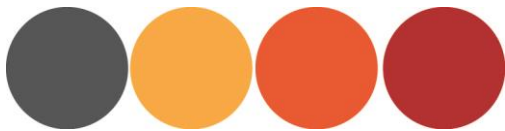
### [Cost of living impacts on children's safety during school holidays](#)

Barnardo's has warned that more children are at risk of exploitation this summer, as fewer families are expected to pay for out of school childcare during the holidays. Polling of 729 UK children aged 11-17, and 1,191 parents and carers shows this summer will be particularly difficult for families because of the ongoing impact of the cost-of-living-crisis. Barnardo's highlighted that during the pandemic, there was a rise in new forms of exploitation, with children increasingly groomed, recruited and exploited over social media, chat rooms, and on gaming platforms. Chief Executive Lynn Perry said: "Whilst all children, regardless of age, location or background can be vulnerable to sexual and criminal exploitation, with many families struggling to afford the basics, let alone activities for their children during the holidays, some children are particularly at risk this summer."

## **Disability**

### [Thematic review on disabled children and young people](#)

The Care Inspectorate is working on a national thematic review with a focus on disabled children and young people up to the age of 18 years. Local authorities were notified of this work in April, and the review will be carried out between May 2023 and May 2024. A national report is expected in spring 2024. The Care Inspectorate will provide a national overview of social work's contribution to how well disabled



children and young people's needs are assessed, planned for, and met. This will include hearing from children about the things that are important to them, their experiences of participation and of receiving care and support.

## **Early Learning and Childcare**

### [Audit Scotland report on ELC expansion](#)

Audit Scotland has published a report on early learning and childcare expansion, which suggests the Scottish Government, local authorities and partners have done well to increase ELC provision to 1,140 hours despite the challenges presented by the pandemic. However, the report highlights risks to the sector that could affect flexibility and choice for families, including budget pressures, workforce recruitment challenges, and the ability of funded providers to stay in business. The report also highlights data gaps and noted delays in developing software needed to improve the management of monitoring of ELC services.

### [Primary 1 deferral pilots evaluated](#)

The Scottish Government has published the evaluation report for the deferral pilots 2021-2022. The pilot, where children born between mid-August and December were allowed to defer entry to primary school and receive their funded ELC entitlement, ran in ten local authorities. The findings from the evaluation inform the national roll-out of the entitlement to an additional year of early learning and childcare funding for eligible children from August 2023.

### [Early years qualifications and support for childminders proposed in consultation \(England\)](#)

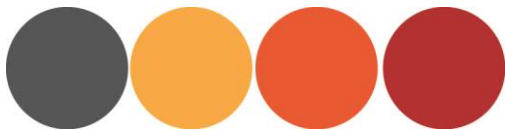
The Department for Education has launched a consultation on proposals to change qualification requirements for Level 3 early years educators and review the requirement for childminders to undertake pre-registration training in England. The consultation also includes plans to allow childminders' assistants to act as the key person to alleviate workloads for childminders. There are additional proposals to update qualification requirements for group and school-based providers.

## **Education**

### [National Discussion on Education publishes findings](#)

The findings from the National Discussion on Education have been published. Described as the largest listening exercise ever undertaken on Scottish education, the National Discussion asked the public, including pupils and students, for their views. Key findings from the final report include:

- the views and needs of children and young people, parents, carers, families and communities should be listened to, heard, respected, represented, engaged, and valued
- a regular curriculum review process should be established



- the future education system should capitalise upon and harness the abilities, skills, and talents of all children and young people in Scotland

### [Parental engagement framework for educators](#)

Education Scotland has been developing a new framework to support practitioners who work with parents and families. The Strategic Framework for Parental Involvement, Parental Engagement, Family Learning and Learning at Home was led by Education Scotland in partnership with Initial Teacher Education providers, local authorities, Scottish Government and parent organisations. The Framework provides a structure to support ongoing professional learning opportunities for practitioners who work with parents and families, and who are involved in delivering training to the workforce.

## **Health**

### [Analysis of consultation responses on ending sale of energy drinks to children](#)

The Scottish Government has published a consultation analysis for ending the sale of energy drinks to children and young people. A briefing has also been published summarising current evidence on caffeinated energy drink (CED) consumption patterns in children and young people in the UK and Scotland. There is considerable evidence showing consumption of CED is associated with a range of adverse physical and mental effects, as well as possibly poorer school achievement and attendance.

## **Justice**

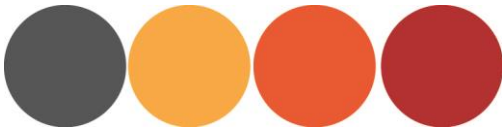
### [Scoping review on child criminal exploitation](#)

A new scoping review offers a baseline understanding of the nature, scale and extent of child criminal exploitation (CCE) in Scotland. The comprehensive report includes multi-agency data in relation to CCE, interviews with professionals who have a role in policy or practice in relation to CCE, and a survey of residential care staff to reflect the Promise's aim of preventing the criminalisation of looked after children.

## **Looked After and Accommodated Children**

### [Outsourcing linked to rise in out-of-area care placements](#) (England)

A study by Oxford University has shown the links between out-of-area placements for care experienced children and young people and the outsourcing of care to private providers in England. The research suggests 17, 000 out-of-area placements between 2011 and 2022 can be attributed to "for-profit outsourcing". Higher rates of outsourcing were also shown to be link to higher rates of placements breaking down within two years. The Guardian reports that in England, more than 80 per cent of children's residential care homes are run by private firms.



## Other

### [Care Inspectorate guidance: How we inspect regulated services](#)

The Care Inspectorate has published guidance on the inspection of regulated service for providers of regulated care settings and the public. It explains our approach, how we use our quality frameworks and gather evidence and how we evaluate the quality of individual care services. It also explains what happens before, during and after our inspections.

#### **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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