



care
inspectorate

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bulletin



[Covid-19 - General](#)

[Early Learning and
Childcare](#)

[Equalities](#)

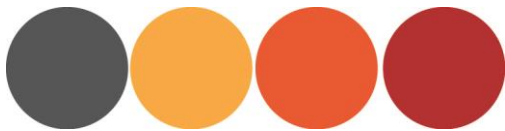
[Looked After and
Accommodated Children](#)

[Other Health and Social
Care](#)

Covid-19 - General

[Monitoring reports of the effectiveness of Covid-19 vaccines](#)

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has published a collection of monitoring reports on the impact Covid-19 vaccines have had on symptomatic disease, hospitalisation, death, and infection.



Early Learning and Childcare

[Speech, language and communication needs \(England\)](#)

Children & Young People Now has published a special report on speech, language and communication needs which summarises key recent policy initiatives, assesses the impact of the pandemic on children's language development delays and highlights examples of areas doing innovative and effective work in tackling the issue. The report states that around 7% of reception-age children have a speech and language difficulty and more than a third of all pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) have a primary need of speech, language and communication needs (SLCN).

[Report on support for childcare and the early years \(England\)](#)

The House of Commons' Education Committee has published a report following the conclusion of their inquiry into support for childcare and the early years. The report concludes that the UK Government should consider wider policy changes to ensure children benefit from high quality affordable childcare and to help parents and providers who are struggling. During the course of this inquiry the UK Government announced an extension of funded hours, however the overall system remains complex, and the Committee has made a number of recommendations to increase choice, availability and flexibility for parents.

Equalities

[New report on inequalities published by Engender](#)

The ALLIANCE has highlighted the publication of Engender's 2023 Sex and Power report. The report looks at a range of areas across public life and notes that inequality is strong in the health and social care system. It suggests that 52% of health boards are led by male chief executives, even though men only make up 23% of the overall NHS Scotland workforce.

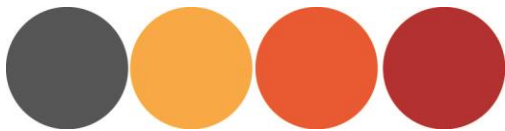
[Equality and Human Rights Commission annual report](#)

The Equality and Human Rights Commission has published its annual report and accounts for 2022-23. The report notes the Commission's work in the past year including the launch of the Preventing Sexual Harassment at Work Toolkit, encouraging greater focus on closing the gender pay gap through the development of the Action Plan Toolkit, and the publication of a research report on challenging decisions about adult social care in Scotland.

Looked After and Accommodated Children

[Project for children referred to the Reporter on offence-based grounds](#)

The Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA) is running a pilot project for children and young people referred to the Reporter on offence-based grounds. The



project aims to improve children and young people's engagement with the system by improving their awareness and understanding of the system and their rights and improving relationships with the important people in their lives. The pilot in Lanarkshire includes requests for continuity of decision makers and confirmed continuity of professional people working alongside children/young people, intensive support, and quick succession of reporting, more joined up approaches between the agencies, as well as timely reviews of orders and improved report writing.

[Pilot areas for reforming children's social care \(England\)](#)

The UK Government's Department for Education has announced three areas for a pilot programme testing new ways to reform every part of the children's social care system, helping children to stay with their families in safe and loving homes, whilst protecting vulnerable children where needed. The 'Families First for Children' programme aims to ensure early help and intervention is available for families with challenges such as addiction, domestic abuse or poor mental health, to help them overcome adversity and stay together where possible, and to identify when to intervene to protect a vulnerable child when needed.

Other Health and Social Care

[Evidence review of Whole Family Approach](#)

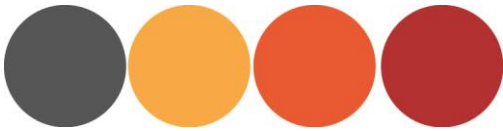
A rapid review of literature on the Whole Family Approaches has been published by the Scottish Government. The review focuses on examples of best practice in the context of substance use and implications for the training and learning development of substance use practitioners and wider workforce.

[Young people invited to share views on Minimum Unit Pricing of alcohol](#)

The ALLIANCE has highlighted the Scottish Government's call for young people aged between 18-24 to take part in a focus group discussion on the impact of Minimum Unit Pricing of alcohol (MUP). The focus group is part of a series of roundtable events to inform the final report on MUP which is due in Parliament later this year. The proposed date for the focus group is 31 July 2023 and those interested in taking part should express their interest by 28 July. The event will be hosted through MS Teams.

[NES Strategy for 2023-2026 published](#)

NHS Education for Scotland (NES) has published its new strategy for 2023-26. The strategy includes a number of objectives which are focused on people, partnerships and performance including supporting the health and social care workforce including children, young people and justice services to become trauma informed and trauma responsive, and developing the education, training and tools required to support health and care professionals in meeting the Health and Social Care standards, practising Realistic Medicine and delivering value-based health and care in a way which is meaningful to their roles and those they support.



[New measures to support women's and girls' health and wellbeing \(England\)](#)

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has announced a range of new measures to support the health and wellbeing of women and girls, including the launch of a women's health area on the NHS website, £25 million to help create women's health hubs, and greater transparency around NHS funded IVF treatment in their area.

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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