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## Covid-19 - General

### [Wider impact of parents' labour market status during lockdown](#)

The Institute for Fiscal Studies has published a report outlining the impact of the pandemic on parents' experiences in the labour market created by lockdown restrictions, and how this affected children's social and emotional development. Nearly half of parents reported that their child had more socio-emotional difficulties in February 2021 than a year earlier. Parents of girls and younger children, and those who were furloughed, were more likely to report worsening in their children's socio-emotional skills. Overall, the socio-emotional skills of children whose families had experienced at least one transition in the labour market were nearly 20 per cent of a standard deviation lower than those of children whose families had stable labour market experiences.

### [Inquiry opens applications to attend August preliminary hearing](#)

The Scottish COVID-19 Inquiry is inviting requests to attend its preliminary hearing on Monday 28 and Tuesday 29 August in Edinburgh. The preliminary hearing will represent the formal opening of the inquiry's public evidence-gathering process, which will lead to the first set of substantive hearings, set to begin in late October 2023. The deadline for applications is Monday 14 August.



## Early Learning and Childcare

### [PVG scheme cost waived for new starts in childcare sector](#)

The Minister for Children, Young People and Keeping the Promise, Natalie Don, has written to the childcare sector to confirm that anyone starting a new role in childcare from 1 August 2023 – 31 March 2024, including childminders, are eligible to have their application for the Protecting Vulnerable Groups scheme paid by the Scottish Government. The Scottish Government has introduced these measures to support individuals through cost of living challenges and to remove any barriers to people joining the sector.

### [Joint review of early years parent support services](#) (England)

Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission have announced a joint review of support services for parents in England. The review will cover support services for parents from conception until their baby is 2 years old, including services delivered through the family hub model, and will make recommendations to help improve families' experiences of the services.

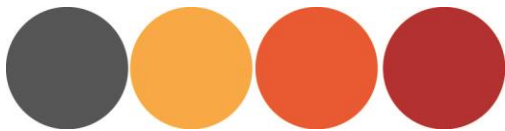
### [Updated financial health check for ELC sector](#)

The Scottish Government has published an update of the Financial Sustainability Health Check of the Childcare Sector in Scotland. The update includes collated evidence on the sustainability of the childcare sector, in particular relating to the impacts of the costs crisis, workforce pressures and the lasting effects of the pandemic. The Health Check update highlights that the childcare sector, like many other parts of Scotland's economy, is currently facing challenges due to the ongoing costs crisis, workforce pressures and the lasting impacts of the pandemic. Some types of services have been disproportionately impacted due to their business models and changes in demand for different types of childcare provision.

## Health

### [Report on children and young people's views on the future of alcohol advertising](#)

Children in Scotland has published a report on the charity's engagement with children and young people as part of its consultation response to the Scottish Government on restricting alcohol advertising and promotion. In an [accompanying blog post](#), Policy Manager David Mackay highlights the main findings. In general, young people were keen to see tighter restrictions on alcohol marketing and promotion also had concerns about the economic impact of restrictions for both small- and large-scale businesses. Some young people felt that children and young people's choices were more influenced by the drinking attitudes of friends and family members than by advertising. Others agreed that drinking alcohol to excess was part of the culture in Scotland and hoped that changing restrictions might help to stop this being seen as normal.



### [Rapid response evidence review on puberty blockers](#)

Healthcare Improvement Scotland has published a Rapid Response evidence synthesis on puberty blockers for children and young people with gender dysphoria. The review followed a request from the Scottish Government to look at evidence from 2021-23 to inform a nationally commissioned gender identity service for Scotland.

## **Justice**

### [Impact of remote hearings on Scotland's civil justice system](#)

Findings from research exploring the impacts of remote hearings and other measures introduced or expanded during the Covid-19 pandemic on Scotland's civil justice system have been published by the Scottish Government. The report suggests that adoption and use of remote hearings varied considerably between different court and tribunal settings, and that views around the impacts of remote hearings were varied. The research found that remote hearings were seen as having potential benefits for certain vulnerable groups such as children and young people with additional needs and those who had experienced domestic abuse.

## **Other Health and Social Care**

### [Children's Services Reform Research Study: Workforce Survey](#)

The ALLIANCE has highlighted a workforce survey for people working in children's services, launched as part of CELCIS's independent research on the future structure and delivery of children's services in the context of a National Care Service. Social work, education, youth justice, police and third sector staff are invited to complete the survey, which will help understand more about the factors that bring about:

- High quality experiences and outcomes for children, young people and families using services
- Close multi-agency working between professionals across different services
- Continuity of support when young people transition to adult services
- High quality support for the workforce, and/or
- Transformational change of services.

### [Care Inspectorate statistical bulletin on complaints](#)

The Care Inspectorate has published a statistical bulletin on complaints about care services in Scotland, covering complaints received and investigated between April 2019 and March 2023. In 2022-23, the Care Inspectorate received 5,910 complaints, a continuation of the long-term increasing trend in concerns/complaints received.

### [SSSC and NES working together to develop quality improvement leaders](#)

The SSSC and NHS Education for Scotland are working together to offer funded places for the Scottish Improvement Leader (SciL) programme. The programme



provides learning for workers in roles with a significant focus on quality improvement and dedicated time allocated to lead improvement projects. To increase the capacity of the sector in respect of leading quality improvement activity, the SSSC is funding additional places for social service workers in ScIL cohorts starting in 2023-24, working with NES to select these places.

### **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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