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Covid-19 - General

[Charities call for children's voices to be heard during Inquiry](#)

Children & Young People Now reports that children's charities have written to the chair of the UK Covid-19 Inquiry calling for an appropriate alternative to the Every Story Matters (ESM) website for children to share their stories. The letter notes that the inquiry has made a commitment to put inequalities at the heart of its work, saying: "Children who also experience inequalities and discrimination in addition to being a child, may be the most difficult to reach, but are also the most important to hear from."



Child Protection

[Reported rise in grooming crimes](#)

The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) has published their results of Freedom of Information requests on recorded offences of Sexual Communication with a Child offences, from all UK police forces since the offence was introduced in 2017, which reportedly shows almost 34,000 online grooming crimes against children were recorded in the last 6 years and 6,350 Sexual Communication with a Child offences were recorded last year (2022/23), which is an 82% increase since 2017/18 when this offence came into force.

[Warning against vulnerable children being placed in unregistered homes \(England\)](#)

Ofsted has published [guidance on placing](#) children subject to Deprivation of Liberty (DoL) orders, making clear that settings offering children's home services for children subject to DoL orders should register with Ofsted in England or the Care Inspectorate Wales. Ofsted has also [updated its guidance](#) on how it prioritises applications to register children's homes when local authorities need urgent placements for children. This means that providers accommodating children who have been placed by a local authority in an 'emergency', children who are subject to a DoL order and/or unaccompanied asylum seeking children, can have their application expedited.

Disability

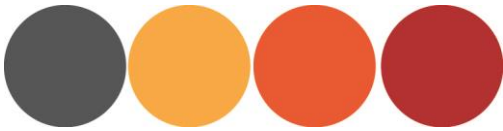
[Scottish Government information on transitions Bill](#)

The Scottish Government's Minister for Children, Young People and Keeping the Promise, Natalie Don, has written to the Education, Children and Young People Committee with further information on the Disabled Children and Young People (Transitions to Adulthood) (Scotland) Bill. The Minister has provided more detail in response to the specific questions raised by the Committee in relation to how the Bill's provisions would be implemented, the duplication and overlap with existing policy and legislation, the proposed costs associated with the Bill, and whether the Bill could achieve its intended aims and impact.

Equalities

[Launch of project for UNCRC implementation](#)

Together Scotland, JRS Knowhow, Children's Parliament, JustRight Scotland, and the Observatory on Human Rights of Children at Swansea University, have launched a project funded by the Scottish Government, which aims to establish a Skills and Knowledge Framework and Training Plan for UNCRC Implementation in Scotland.



Looked After and Accommodated Children

[Education outcomes for looked after children](#)

The Scottish Government has published information on attainment and destinations of looked after school leavers, and achievement of curriculum for excellence levels for looked after children in Scotland in 2021/22. The information reportedly shows that more looked after children are staying in school for longer but there are still large gaps in attainment compared with all pupils.

Other Health and Social Care

[Scottish Social Services Awards \(23 November 2023\)](#)

The Institute for Research and Innovation in Social Services (Iriss) is publicising that the Scottish Social Services Awards are open for nomination and will be held in Glasgow on 23 November 2023.

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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