



[Covid-19 - General](#)

[Child Protection](#)

[Early Learning and
Childcare](#)

[Looked After and
Accommodated Children](#)

[Other](#)

Covid-19 - General

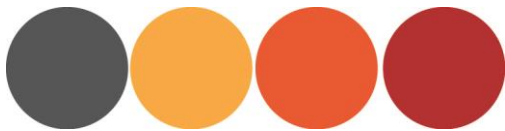
[Preliminary hearing date set for Scottish inquiry](#)

The Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry will hold a preliminary hearing on Monday 28 August to set out how the Inquiry intends to go about its work and run future hearings. The hearing was initially due to take place over two days, however the Inquiry has confirmed that it will now be confined to 28 August. The preliminary hearing will lead into the first set of impact hearings which are due to begin in late October 2023. The preliminary hearing and substantive hearings in October will focus on the health and social care impacts of Covid-19.

Child Protection

[New guidance on use of restraint and restrictive practices in secure care \(England\)](#)

The UK Government has published new guidance on the use of force, restraint and restrictive practices in the children and young people secure estate. The policy framework sets out rules and guidance on the use of approved restraint techniques and restrictive physical interventions for staff at secure settings and escort providers in the Youth Custody Service. It follows a review of the use of such practices and states that staff working in children's prisons are to be banned from using techniques that deliberately cause pain, except in emergency scenarios to save life or to prevent life-changing injury.



Early Learning and Childcare

[Updated nappy changing guidance](#)

The Care Inspectorate has published updated guidance on nappy changing for early learning and childcare settings (excluding childminders). The updated guidance will help settings ensure they have appropriate facilities and equipment that provide young children with a suitable, safe, clean environment that promotes privacy and dignity. The Care Inspectorate will use this guidance to support positive outcomes for children when registering a setting or varying conditions of registration.

[Funding concerns over planned ELC expansion \(England\)](#)

Concerns have been raised about the UK Government's early learning and childcare expansion following research about the closure of settings in England. A study by the Local Government Association raises doubts about whether planned extra funding for councils, to deliver the rollout of 15 hours of funded childcare to all two-year-olds from April 2024 and of 30 hours for all children aged nine months and above from 2025, will be enough to stop further nurseries closing.

Looked After and Accommodated Children

[Terms of reference for Kinship Care group published](#)

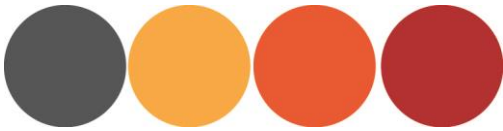
The Scottish Government has published the terms of reference for the Kinship Care Collaborative. The group was set up to consider how to deliver improvement in the support for kinship families across Scotland. Members will consider current policy and legislation and explore collectively the changes that are required to drive improvement, including prioritising and developing timescales and a work plan.

[Supporting Birth Parents fund](#)

The Scottish Government has confirmed that support for parents who have had children taken into care will continue, through the Supporting Birth Parents fund operated by the Corra Foundation. The group helps those who see their mental health decline following the loss of their children, helping empower parents to take control of their lives, develop new skills and build their self-confidence.

[Report shows impact of poverty on chances of family reunification](#)

One Parent Families Scotland have published a new report, calling for support and commitment from the Scottish Government and local authorities to increase the chances of children in the care system being reunited with their families. New research, commissioned by The Promise Scotland and conducted by One Parent Families Scotland and Child Poverty Action Group, highlights the financial and emotional impact of poverty on a family when a child enters care and if they return from care. The research highlights the barriers that prevent parents from being



reunited with their children, such as parents being allocated a one-bedroom property as they were now classed as 'single occupant'.

Other

[Over 150 organisations call for action to tackle the injustice of poverty](#)

Over 150 charities, trade unions, campaign groups, and community organisations have called on the First Minister, Humza Yousaf, to put tackling poverty at the heart of the next Programme for Government. In a letter drafted by the Poverty Alliance, the organisations have urged the First Minister to include: a boost to people's incomes through a Minimum Income Guarantee; an expansion of funded childcare; an increase in the Scottish Child Payment; a review of the adequacy of support provided to disabled people; and a pause in pursuing people who can't pay unaffordable debts to councils and other public sector bodies.

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.

It should also be noted that the Care Inspectorate has no liability in respect of the content of external websites which may be signposted on this site.