

8 – 14 September  
2023



bulletin



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## Covid-19 - General

### [Views of children to be gathered for UK inquiry](#)

The UK Covid-19 inquiry has set out the next steps for investigating the impact of the pandemic on children and young people. The inquiry will deliver a bespoke and targeted research project and hear directly from children and young people most affected. Their first-hand experiences will be combined with existing evidence on the impacts of the pandemic on children and young people.

## Early Learning and Childcare

### [Think tanks recommends a Scottish Early Learning and Childcare Payment](#)

Reform Scotland have published a paper setting out the case for a Scottish Early Learning and Childcare Payment, in order to improve the flexibility and accountability of funded childcare for parents of three- and four- year olds. The paper, written by Gordon Hector for the think tank, states the current payment mechanism has led to “a collapse” in flexible childcare, reductions in more flexible nurseries, “poor” provision for children aged two and under, as well as school-age children, and “confusing” accountability and benefits systems.



## Early Learning and Childcare

### [Scottish Government Q&A on out of school care commitments](#)

The Scottish Out of School Network (SOSCN) has highlighted a Q&A document published by the Scottish Government on its commitments to school age childcare in the Programme for Government 2023-24. The document sets out proposals for investing in Early Adopter Communities in six local authorities, to test and reduce barriers to activities and childcare around the school day and during the holidays. The letter confirms a School Age Childcare Delivery Framework will be published in the coming weeks. SOSCN has also [written](#) to Minister for Children, Young People and Keeping the Promise, Natalie Don, welcoming the commitment to expand school age childcare for children in lowest income families, but expressing disappointment that there was little support announced for current and existing services.

### [Best start in life part 2: the 3 prime areas of learning](#)

Ofsted have published part 2 of their research into raising the quality of early years education. The report, Best start in life part 2: the 3 prime areas of learning, examines the factors that contribute to developing young children's knowledge and skills in the 3 prime areas of learning in the early years foundation stage in England. The wider Ofsted review builds on research evidence underpinning the education inspection framework, focusing on early education. It aims to highlight useful evidence that practitioners can put into practice.

## Education

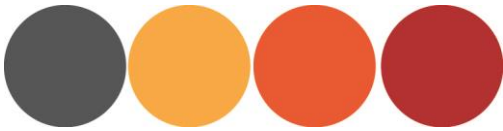
### [RAAC data published by Scottish local authorities](#)

The Scottish Government has published new data showing the areas impacted by Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC). Inspections carried out by local authorities have shown that, at present, there are 16 council areas which have identified schools as containing RAAC. Where RAAC has been identified, councils have assured the Scottish Government that mitigations are in place in accordance with guidance from the Institution of Structural Engineers.

## Health

### [Winter flu vaccine campaign begins for children and young people](#)

Public Health Scotland is encouraging parents and carers of children aged 2 and over to ensure they receive the flu vaccine ahead of winter. Appointment letters for children 6 months to 2 years at risk and those aged 2 to 5, who are not in school, started arriving at homes from mid-August and will continue through the autumn with details of where and when the vaccine will be given.



## Human Rights & Equalities

### [Update on UNCRC \(Incorporation\) Bill](#)

Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Shirley-Anne Somerville, has written to the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee regarding the Reconsideration of the UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill. Noting she had promised to share draft amendments to the bill with the committee, she explained amendments would be formally lodged on Monday 18 September. The letter notes the background to the bill, the effect of the draft amendments, minimising the risk of another Supreme Court referral and plans to make the law as accessible as possible for users.

#### **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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