



Children
and
Young
People



[Covid-19 - General](#)

[Child Protection](#)

[Early Learning and
Childcare](#)

[Looked After and
Accommodated Children](#)

[Other](#)

Covid-19 - General

[UK Covid-19 Inquiry Module 2 public hearings begin](#)

The UK Covid-19 Inquiry has commenced public hearings for Module 2 of its investigation. This part of the Inquiry will focus on the highest level decision making and political governance at Westminster. This week, the Inquiry heard from representative witnesses from bereaved groups and heard evidence relating to the impact of the pandemic on certain vulnerable and other demographic groups in society. The Inquiry will also hear from former Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, and current Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak, as part of this Module.

Child Protection

[Joint review of child protection arrangements \(Wales\)](#)

Care Inspectorate Wales has published a joint rapid review of child protection arrangements, looking at to what extent current structures and processes ensure children's names are appropriately placed on and removed from the child protection register, when evidence suggests it is safe to do so.



Early Learning and Childcare

[New framework and charter for school age childcare](#)

The Scottish Government has published the school age childcare delivery framework. It sets out the Government's commitment to build a system of school age childcare which will be funded for those families who need it most. The framework defines the action areas which will be the focus of the next three years and considers how the impact of early delivery will be measured and evidenced. A new [National Children's Charter](#), which will be used to co-design the system of school-age childcare, has also been published. A Place in Childhood and Scottish Government worked with children in schools across Scotland to design the charter, which sets out what children want to see in their school-age childcare services. The six principles they agreed upon are kindness, community, fairness, happiness, fun and choice.

[Latest Out to Play guidance published](#)

New guidance for early learning and childcare settings to make the most of outdoor spaces has been published by the Scottish Government in partnership with the Care Inspectorate and Inspiring Scotland. Section 12 of the Out to Play series is titled Caring for our Outdoor Spaces and focuses on utilising outdoor spaces and caring for the environment through embedding Learning for Sustainability.

Looked After and Accommodated Children

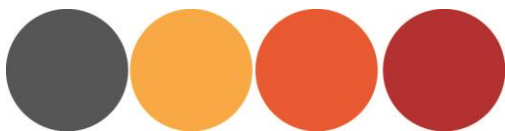
[Keeping the Promise project launched by SCRA](#)

The Scottish Children's Reporter Administration has launched a new Keeping the Promise project for Ayrshire, which introduces child-friendly scheduling to ensure Children's Hearings are arranged for a time that children and young people identify as suitable. The project involves children and young people, working alongside those already in established relationships such as advocacy workers or people who support them in school.

Other

[Government consulting on SSSC register](#)

The Scottish Government has published a consultation paper on proposed changes to the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) register. It seeks views on changes to reduce the number of register parts from 23 to 4, requiring employees to apply for registration within three months of starting a new role and be registered within six months, and including more information on the public register, such as specialist qualifications, and information relating to fitness to practise. The consultation closes on Tuesday 2 January.



[Updated safer recruitment guidance](#)

An updated version of Safer Recruitment Through Better Recruitment guidance has been published by the Care Inspectorate and SSSC. It will support employers to meet legislative and regulatory requirements for the recruitment and selection of staff. It is especially aimed at employers in social care, early learning and childcare and social work. As part of reviewing this guidance, it was decided that the pre-pandemic position on background checks should be reinstated. Providers are now expected to receive satisfactory background checks before new staff are deployed, apart from in exceptional circumstances.

[‘Bed poverty’ highlighted by Barnardo’s](#)

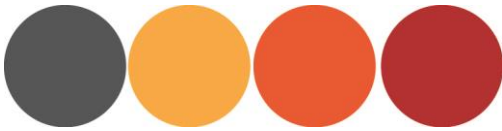
A survey published by Barnardo’s suggests one in 20 children sleeps on the floor due to not having a bed of their own. The YouGov survey, which involved over 1000 parents and 1000 children aged 8-17, also found 9 per cent of children said they shared a bed with another family member as they did not have one of their own. Barnardo’s highlighted they are extremely concerned about the impact the cost-of-living crisis on families and children.

[New report looks at poverty in Scotland in 2023](#)

The new report published by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) suggests that the Scottish Government remains off-track in meeting child poverty reduction targets and that over one million people are still living in poverty in Scotland. It also notes the continuing trend of very deep poverty rising and suggests that almost half of those living in poverty are in very deep poverty. The report looks at whether work is working for people in Scotland and explains the rapid increase of in-work poverty. It suggests that women make up 72% of those trapped in persistent low pay and notes that similarly, single parents, disabled people and carers are often trapped in low pay.

[National Care Service regional events summary reports](#)

The Scottish Government has published six summary reports on the findings of a series of regional events, held over the summer to support the co-design of a National Care Service (NCS). The summary reports include [valuing the workforce](#), [realising rights and responsibilities](#), [making sure your voice is heard](#), [keeping care support local part one](#), [keeping care support local part two](#), and [information sharing to improve care support](#). Easy read summaries of the findings are also available.



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.