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Covid-19 - General

[Restriction Order on protected inquiry material](#)

The Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry has published a General Restriction Order. The Order applies to Protected Material, such as witness statements, documents and other evidence given, produced by or provided to the Inquiry during the course of its investigations and prior to publication of the material by the Inquiry. It restricts the categories of people to whom such material may be distributed and specifies the conditions on which it may be distributed.

Disability

[Committee concerned about new Bill on transitions for disabled young people](#)

The Scottish Parliament's Education, Children and Young People Committee has published its Stage 1 report on the Disabled Children and Young People (Transitions to Adulthood) (Scotland) Bill. The report notes the challenges faced by disabled young people and their families and acknowledged the evidence showing the current legislative landscape is complex and difficult to navigate in this area. However, Committee members said several aspects of the Bill risked complicating this landscape further, and called on the Scottish Government to focus on fixing the issues facing disabled young people now.



Early Learning and Childcare

[SCMA funded ELC survey](#)

The Scottish Childminding Association has asked all childminders who currently deliver funded early learning and childcare to take part in the annual Funded ELC Survey. The data from childminders will be used to support change and progress for the workforce. The survey closes on Tuesday 31 October.

[Evaluation of Access to Childcare Fund published](#)

The Scottish Government has published the evaluation report on phase 2 of the Access to Childcare Fund. The evaluation aimed to assess the extent to which the Fund's projects contributed to expected outcomes for parents and children, as well as produce recommendations to inform the design of school age childcare. The report's authors offer a number of considerations for creating a wider system of school age childcare, including addressing staffing challenges, fostering strong relationships between families and staff, partnership working, inclusion of children with additional support needs, and strong monitoring and evaluation processes.

[Report highlights scale of need for early years professionals \(England\)](#)

A report by Nesta has estimated the number of early years professionals needed to support the early learning and childcare sector in England by 2028. The research shows the early years sector needs an additional 27,500 practitioners to deliver the expansion of free childcare hours to under-3s, announced in the UK Spring Budget 2023. This would represent an increase in demand of 8 per cent.

Human Rights & Equalities

[Rights of children in conflict with the law explored in animation](#)

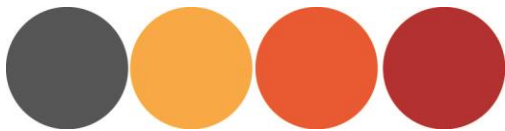
Together Scotland has highlighted a new animation by Clan Childlaw, which reflects the legal needs of children and young people who are in conflict with the law. The animation, titled 'Alright?', explores an individual's struggle to find his way in the "web" of rights, laws and support systems.

[Scottish Youth Parliament survey on views of the child](#)

The new #WhatsYourTake consultation survey has been launched by the Scottish Youth Parliament for young people aged 12-25. Respondents are asked for their views on a range of issues including human rights, transitions for young people with a disability and democracy in local communities. The survey closes on 23 October.

Justice

[Hearing rooms for children undergo improvements](#)



The Scottish Children's Reporter Administration has issued an update on its Hearing room improvement programme. Over the past year, six Hearing rooms have been revamped in conjunction with Hearings-experienced young people. The current programme is in its final stages. By the end of this financial year, 44 Hearing rooms will have been transformed.

Other

[Better for Babies briefing](#)

Together Scotland has highlighted a new briefing by Save the Children, calling on the Scottish Government to take action on the rising number of babies living in poverty. The briefing makes a number of recommendations for the Government to protect babies within the crucial first year of life, including calls for a strategic approach across early years, social security and fair work portfolios to reduce child poverty in households with a baby under one.

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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