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Covid-19 - General

[Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry additional academic research](#)

The Scottish Covid-19 public inquiry has published additional academic research, building up on the initial scoping research published last year. The new publications include updates covering the period between January – December 2022. A timeline of key dates from the Covid-19 pandemic in Scotland and a policy statement setting out the human rights-based approach the inquiry intends to take during its investigation have also been published.

Additional Support Needs

[Additional support for learning inquiry opens](#)

A new inquiry by the Scottish Parliament's Education, Children and Young People Committee will focus on Additional Support for Learning. The inquiry will focus on the following themes:

- the implementation of presumption of mainstreaming.
- the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on additional support for learning.
- the use of remedies as set out in the Education (Additional Support for Learning) Act 2004.

A [call for evidence](#) closes on 31 December 2023.



Child Protection

[Pathfinder sites announced for Bairns' Hoose](#)

The Scottish Government has announced the six pathfinder locations that will become home to the first Bairns' Hoose test sites. Multi-agency partnerships in Fife, North Strathclyde, Aberdeenshire, Aberdeen City, Tayside and the Outer Hebrides will set up pathfinders to provide coordinated comprehensive support for children and young people in the justice system.

Early Learning and Childcare

[Draft quality framework for childcare agencies](#)

The Care Inspectorate has launched a survey on its new draft quality framework for childcare agencies. The new framework sets out the elements that will help the inspectorate answer the key questions about how agencies provide high quality care to children and their families and how they support their staff to achieve this. Six test inspections will be carried out between November and December and a survey has been opened to gather feedback.

[Poster highlighting new staffing legislation](#)

The Care Inspectorate has designed a poster for staff and managers within early learning and childcare services to raise awareness of the Health and Care (Staffing) (Scotland) Act 2019, which comes into effect on 1 April 2024.

Education

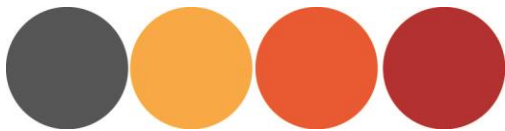
[Rise in school absence](#)

There has been a rise in school pupil absence since the pandemic, according to the Commission on School Reform. Their report estimated that 40 per cent of secondary pupils of exam age in Scotland are missing a day of school per fortnight, with a fifth of pupils missing one day per week. The BBC reports that the Scottish Government has confirmed Education Scotland will undertake work to better understand the challenges affecting attendance.

Human Rights & Equalities

[Progress on children's rights at the Care Inspectorate](#)

The Care Inspectorate's children's rights report has been published, as required under the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. The report covers progress during the period 1 April 2020 - 31 March 2023 and highlights a range of activities undertaken to protect, promote and defend children's rights.



Looked After and Accommodated Children

[Second round of Promise Partnership funding announced](#)

The second round of The Promise Partnership Fund has been announced, with 42 organisations across Scotland benefitting from £4 million to deliver projects that will help children, young people and families with lived experience of the care system. Administered by the Corra Foundation, the funding will be split across third sector and public organisations that prioritise work to:

- build supportive workforces that can provide the unique support for young people and families in the care system to thrive
- create school structures that provide support, opportunities and a sense of belonging
- enhance youth justice and rights to reduce and prevent the criminalisation of children and young people with care experience

[Second phase of Bright Spots programme opens](#)

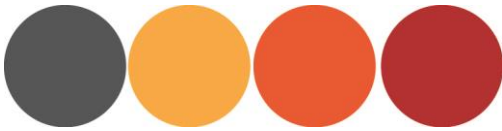
CELCIS has announced the second phase of the Bright Spots programme is now open. Local authorities are invited to take part in the pilot programme, which gives councils the opportunity to listen to the voices of care experienced children and young people through two online surveys developed by CELCIS and Coram Voice. The surveys' approach provides a measure of wellbeing, quality of care and of the experience of leaving care.

[Care leaver payment plans announced by First Minister](#)

Young people in Scotland who are transitioning from the care system into adulthood will receive a one-off Care Leaver Payment of £2,000 to support them in independent living, under new proposals set out by the First Minister. The proposed payment will be co-designed with care experienced people to ensure it meets their needs and helps reduce some of the financial challenges they face. The First Minister made the announcement on a visit to the Scottish Throughcare and Aftercare Forum in Glasgow.

[Ofsted survey results on experiences of children's social care \(England\)](#)

An Ofsted survey has highlighted the views and experiences of children, parents, foster carers and social workers about children's social care in England. Views were sought on children's experiences of living in children's homes, living with foster carers, and staying in residential special schools, boarding schools and further education residential accommodation. Children in foster care were more likely to always feel safe where they live than children in other types of care.



Other

[Practice statement on GIRFEC child's plans](#)

The Scottish Government has published a practice statement on Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) child's plans. The Practice Statement complements the guidance series published in September 2022 to help and support practitioners and managers embed and implement GIRFEC into their everyday practice. It provides an overview of the consideration and function of the non-statutory child's plan.

[National Care Service Forum Easy Read Programme](#)

The Scottish Government has provided an easy read version of the National Care Service (NCS) Forum Programme. The Forum is due to take place on 30 November 2023 at the Glasgow Science Centre with panel members including Social Care Minister, Maree Todd.

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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