



[Covid-19 - General](#)

[Additional Support Needs](#)

[Child Protection](#)

[Early Learning and Childcare](#)

[Looked After and Accommodated Children](#)

[Other](#)

Covid-19 - General

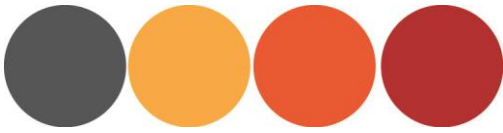
[Scottish Covid-19 inquiry explainer video](#)

The differences between the Scottish and UK Covid inquiries have been explained in a video produced by the Scottish inquiry. Chief Executive Ian Duddy explains in the video the different approaches taken to the periods under investigation, the Terms of Reference and sequencing of public hearings by each respective inquiry.

Additional Support Needs

[Thematic inspections on transitions to adulthood \(England\)](#)

Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission has released new guidance ahead of the next series of thematic visits looking at how children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) are being prepared for adulthood. As part of the area SEND inspection arrangements, Ofsted and the CQC will carry out a series of in-depth reviews to explore a particular aspect of the SEND system between spring and summer 2024.



Child Protection

[What If You're Right? child sexual abuse campaign launched](#)

Child Protection Scotland and Barnardo's Scotland have launched the What If You're Right? campaign, which aims to raise awareness of child sexual abuse and encourage the general public to look, listen and notice signs of abuse and report concerns immediately. The campaign has been designed with input from adult survivors of sexual abuse across Scotland and highlights both the immediate and long term consequences of child sexual abuse.

Early Learning and Childcare

[Childcare recruitment drive ahead of April expansion \(England\)](#)

A new childcare recruitment campaign has been launched in England ahead of the latest expansion of funded early learning and childcare in April. The recruitment campaign, launched by the Department for Education, is looking to boost recruitment across the sector by flagging the variety of childcare career routes and opportunities for training and flexibility. A £1,000 sign-on bonus for childcare workers is also being launched to increase capacity.

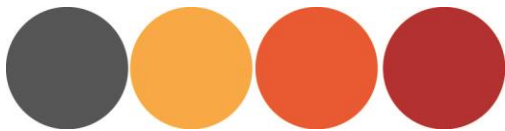
Looked After and Accommodated Children

[Progress report on The Promise published by Who Cares? Scotland](#)

Who Cares? Scotland has published a report on the progress of The Promise, which celebrated its fourth anniversary this week. The report highlights concerns about the lack of progress, gaps in data and the aims of The Promise. Specific findings were published on the lack of progress in education, restraint and the monetisation of care. The report notes that positive progress has been made in areas such as keeping siblings together, addressing stigma in the care system and ongoing work to improve the youth justice system.

[Report on digital exclusion for care experienced young people](#)

The Scottish Children's Reporter Administration has published new research on digital poverty and exclusion among care experienced children and young people. The study focused on the impact of Children's Hearings System's move to a digital platform during the pandemic, and the wider issue of the digital divide facing care experienced young people. The report includes ten recommendations for the Children's Hearings System as well as corporate parents and the Scottish Government to improve access.



Other

[Resignations in health and social care ministerial team](#)

The Scottish Government has confirmed that Drugs and Alcohol Policy Minister Elena Whitham has tendered her resignation to the First Minister and stepped down from her ministerial post for health reasons. BBC News is [reporting](#) that Cabinet Secretary for NHS Recovery, Health and Social Care Michael Matheson has also resigned from his position.

[SPSO consulting on Child Friendly Complaints Handling Principles](#)

The Scottish Public Services Ombudsman (SPSO) has opened a consultation on the draft Child Friendly Complaints Handling Principles. The consultation will ensure the principles are clearly communicated and easy to understand and is also a legal requirement so the SPSO can amend the Statement of Principles to include the Child Friendly Complaints Handling Principles, following parliamentary approval. The consultation questionnaire takes about 10 minutes to complete and the SPSO is seeking responses from anyone under 18, anyone with caring responsibilities for someone under 18, and public services/third sector organisations who work with people under 18 or have an interest in promoting their rights.

[Independent Panel Members sought for SSSC](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) is looking for people to sit as independent Panel Members on their Fitness to Practise Panels for 20 days per year. They are looking to people who do not have a background in social services (lay members).

[Distribution of social service workforce](#)

A report by the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) examines how the workforce in the social service sector (as defined by the Public Service Reform Scotland Act 2010) is distributed across employers of different size and types. Key findings include that the overall workforce increased in size and the number of registered services fell between 2012 and 2022, in December 2022 there were approximately 2,500 separate providers operating in the social service sector in Scotland, and of the providers operating, just over 20% are medium to large, and those providers employ around 85% of the sector's workforce.

[Improvements needed in oversight of alternative provision services \(England\)](#)

A report by the Care Quality Commission and Ofsted highlights the improvements needed in the commissioning and oversight of alternative provision for children and young people. Alternative provision is arranged by schools or local authorities when pupils have been excluded or cannot attend mainstream school. The joint report suggests too many children's experiences of alternative provision are negative, and notes the lack of national standards around commissioning and oversight which lead to inconsistent outcomes.

**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.