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Covid-19 - General

[Scottish Covid Inquiry open to requests to attend next hearings](#)

The Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry has confirmed that they are now accepting requests to attend for the first three weeks of the second tranche of its health and social care impact hearings. More information about the core participants and organisations giving evidence each day will be published shortly. Requests to attend should be submitted to the Inquiry by 1 March 2024.

[UK Covid Inquiry hearing dates to Spring 2025](#)

The UK Covid-19 Inquiry has announced the dates for public hearings in three further investigations from autumn 2024 until spring 2025. Module 3 will investigate the impact of the pandemic on healthcare systems, Module 4 will examine vaccines, therapeutics and anti-viral treatment across the UK, and Module 5 will explore pandemic procurement across the UK. Dates for Module 6 public hearings, examining the care sector across the UK, will be announced later this year.



Education

[Resource to support early years educators with teaching reading](#)

Education Scotland has published a resource which aims to provide professional support to practitioners who teach young children in those very early steps towards becoming a reader. 'Learning to read in the Early Years: A professional support overview' outlines the range of ways that educators can build a holistic knowledge of each child as a reader in order to effectively support their reading journey, and is for all educators who support children and young people to learn to read, in particular those working in primary schools and Early Learning and Childcare settings.

[Statistics on school leaver attainment and destinations](#)

The Scottish Government has published statistics on the destinations and attainment of 2022-23 leavers from Scotland's publicly funded schools. Amongst other data, the statistics report that 95.9% of 2022-23 school leavers were in a positive destination three months after the end of the school year, the gap between the proportion of school leavers from the most and least deprived areas is 3.7 percentage points, and the proportions of pupils who left school having attained one pass or more at SCQF Levels 4 or better, 5 or better, 6 or better and 7 under the National Qualifications measure have all decreased compared to 2021-22.

Health

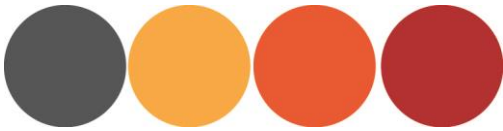
[Views of children and young people on healthcare policy and inequalities \(England\)](#)

A report has been published by Barnado's, together with the Institute of Health Equity, Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership, Birmingham and Solihull Integrated Care System, and South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Integrated Care System, collating the views and feedback by children and young people on healthcare policy and physical and mental health inequalities. This Insights Report also contributes to a 'Children and Young People's Health Equity Collaborative: Framework for the Drivers of Health Inequalities', which will operate as a starting point to services which improve healthcare, reduce inequalities being experienced across different social groups and support improved wellbeing, quality of life and opportunities for children and young people affected by disadvantage.

Looked After and Accommodated Children

[Children's Social Work Statistics 2022-23-Secure Care](#)

The Scottish Government has published Secure Care Statistics for Scotland for 2022 to 2023 that cover data on children in secure care accommodation. Headline statistics include that during 2022-23, there were an average of 59 children in secure care accommodation, 154 admissions to secure care accommodation, and on average 37 children were from Scotland and 22 from outside Scotland.



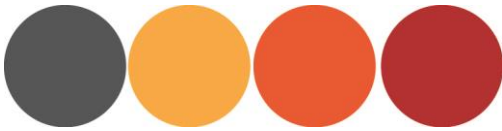
Other Health and Social Care

[Lead Committee publishes Stage 1 report on National Care Service Bill](#)

The Health, Social Care and Sport Committee has published its Stage 1 report on the National Care Service (Scotland) Bill. The report includes 111 recommendations, and calls on the Scottish Government to publish a number of documents before Stage 2, including draft amendments and an updated Policy Memorandum. The Committee has given notice that it will require additional time to take further oral and written evidence from key stakeholders once these documents are made available, and calls on the Scottish Government to publish the documents required no later than 29 March 2024. Subject to these conditions, the Committee recommends that the general principles of the Bill be agreed to.

[Event on tackling child poverty in rural settings](#) (21 March 2024)

The Institute for Research and Innovation in Social Services (Iriss) will hold an online event on 21 March 2024 focusing on child poverty in rural settings, and the role of rural social workers and other community stakeholders. Speakers will be talking about the work of the Outer Hebrides Community Planning Partnerships Anti-Poverty Group, and their improvement plan to identify and help children and families under stress who have been affected by poverty, and an overview on the cost of living crisis, its ripple effects and rural dimension.

**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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