

1 – 7 March 2024



bulletin

[Covid-19 - General](#)[Child Protection](#)[Education](#)[Health](#)[Looked After and
Accommodated Children](#)[Other](#)**Covid-19 - General**[Study notes positive health impact for “pandemic babies”](#)

NurseryWorld reports on a new study by the University of Cork, suggesting babies born during the pandemic have fewer infections and allergies, due to altered gut microbes. The research explores the impact of lockdowns, lower rates of antibiotic use and increased duration of breastfeeding and shows newborns were found to have more beneficial microbes acquired after birth from their more, leading to a greater protective role against allergic disease.

Child Protection[National Framework for Child Protection Learning](#)

The Scottish Government has published an updated national framework to support multi-agency learning and development relevant to child protection in Scotland. The revised version incorporates the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland, which was published in 2021 and updated in 2023. Other significant changes in legislation, policy and practice development since the original framework was published in 2012 are also taken into account, along with updated workforce groups, knowledge and skills descriptors.



[Updated public protection guidance for people arriving from Ukraine](#)

The Scottish Government has updated the public protection guidance for practitioners involved in safeguarding of children and adults who are arriving in Scotland from Ukraine. It highlights the vulnerabilities that services working with vulnerable children and adults at risk of harm should be aware of. The guidance was updated to incorporate visa changes introduced by the UK Government.

[Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry publishes latest boarding school case study findings](#)

The Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry has published case study findings relating to the provision of residential care for children at Morrison's Academy in Crieff between 1945 and 2007. Morrison's was one of the schools investigated in the boarding schools case study and explored in evidence in the course of public hearings. Lady Smith, Chair of the Inquiry, has now published 11 sets of findings and further reports on boarding schools case studies will follow.

Education

[Gender-based violence framework](#)

A framework to support those working with and in schools to develop approaches to gender-based violence has been developed by the Scottish Government. The framework supports a whole-school approach to addressing gender-based violence, and includes information on universal, targeted and specialist responses.

Health

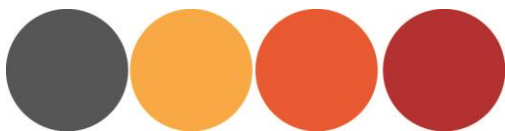
[Government funding for childhood obesity prevention projects](#)

Funding has been announced for projects that work to prevent childhood obesity and reduce health inequalities in Scotland. As part of World Obesity Day, Minister for Public Health Jenni Minto announced over £500,000 of investment for ten projects across the country, including the Henry – Healthy Families Right from the Start programme run by NHS boards to help parents and carers with children under five to provide a healthier start in life.

Looked After and Accommodated Children

[Insight paper on babies experiencing care](#)

The latest Insight publication produced by Iriss focuses on infants under a year old who become looked after away from home. The paper draws mainly on research in Scotland and the UK on children "born into care" with a focus on the relevance for social work practice in Scotland. Researchers explore the characteristics of babies and their families, considers the experience of parents with more than one child in care, and highlights the very low numbers of infants placed with siblings.



[Guidance on financial support when children are supported in care](#)

CELCIS has highlighted the publication of two new guides from One Parent Families Scotland and The Promise Scotland on financial support for families with children in or on the edges of care. The guide for practitioners aims to help the workforce in voluntary and statutory agencies who are supporting families who may be impacted financially by their children not being cared for at home or after their children return home to their care. The guide for parents is designed to provide information on how welfare support might be impacted and where to get support and help and advice about money.

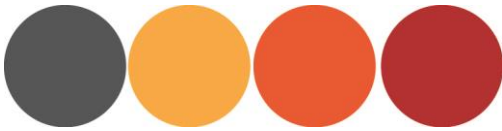
Other

[Scottish Government responds to IRISR](#)

The Scottish Government has published a response to the recommendations of the Independent Review of Inspection, Scrutiny and Regulation of Social Care in Scotland (IRISR). It has accepted all 38 high level strategic recommendations spanning across five key themes. Within the response, the Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport recognises the work already underway that will in part or fully address a large number of the recommendations and notes the “critical role” regulators play assuring consistent and high standards of social care support and linked services.

[Changes to child benefit announced in Budget](#)

The Chancellor of the Exchequer presented his Budget to the House of Commons this week. It was announced that the threshold for families claiming child benefit will rise from £50,000 to £60,000 from April, and a consultation will be held to explore options for the threshold taking into account collective household income, instead of individual income.



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.