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Covid-19 - General

[Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry timetable for week 3 of hearings](#)

The Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry has announced the timetable for week 3 of its second tranche of health and social care impact hearings. Anyone wishing to attend the hearings in person must request a place in advance.

[First preliminary hearing for care sector module](#)

The UK Covid-19 Inquiry has held the first preliminary hearing for the investigation into the care sector across the UK (Module 6). Module 6 will look at the impact of the pandemic on the publicly and privately funded adult social care sector in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

[UK Covid-19 Inquiry opens Module 7 of its investigation](#)

The UK Covid-19 Inquiry has opened Module 7 of its investigation: Test, Trace and Isolate across the UK. This module will look into the approach to testing, tracing and isolation adopted during the pandemic in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland from January 2020 until February 2022. The public hearings for this module are planned for summer 2025.



Early Learning and Childcare

[Learning portal for childcare professionals](#)

The Scottish Government's Minister for Children, Young People and Keeping the Promise has written to childcare professionals to publicise a Continuous Professional Learning (CPL) portal. Bringing together resources from a range of training providers including the Care Inspectorate, Education Scotland, Scottish Government and Scottish Social Services Council, aims to enhance professional development with access to quality assured CPL resources, guidance and reference documents, including the National Induction Resource.

Equalities

[Report into poverty and income inequality](#)

The Scottish Government has published 'Poverty and Income Inequality in Scotland 2020-23', with three year averaged estimates of the proportion of people, children, working-age adults and pensioners in Scotland living in poverty, and other statistics on household income and income inequality. Key trends include that 24% of children were living in relative poverty after housing costs in 2020-23, and that child poverty is broadly stable following a gradual rise in recent years.

Health

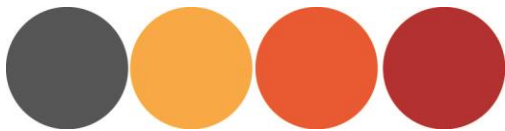
[Survey of parental attitudes to childhood vaccines](#)

The UK Government's UK Health Security Agency has published findings from the 2023 attitudinal survey of parental attitudes to childhood vaccines. The online survey asked parents of children aged two months to less than five years their thoughts on vaccination, and issues such as vaccine awareness, disease severity, vaccine safety and vaccine confidence are included in the key findings.

Justice

[Review of criminally exploited children](#)

The final report of the Jay Review of Criminally Exploited Children has been published by Action for Children. Key lessons from the evidence heard by the review include that the absence of a clear and consistent definition of the criminal exploitation of children is a barrier to protecting and supporting them, existing legislation and criminal processes are not fit for purpose, and too many exploited children are treated as criminals rather than victims and do not receive a child protection response. Recommendations include that there should be a single, cohesive legal code designed to tackle the criminal exploitation of children, a statutory definition for the criminal exploitation of children, co-ordinated policy and practice with development of a national strategy for preventing the criminal exploitation of children, and investment and funding for early intervention and



prevention services for exploited young people must be specific, increased and ring-fenced.

[Grant awarded for project challenging justice inequalities](#)

The Children and Young People's Centre for Justice's Research Lead, Dr Nina Vaswani and co-investigators Professor Yvette Taylor (Education) and Dr Michelle Donnelly (Law) have been awarded a Nuffield Foundation Research Grant for the project "Challenging Justice Inequalities with Children in Conflict with the Law". The project reportedly aims to increase understanding of how the interactions between poverty, the protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 and inequalities shape children's experiences of justice in Scotland. The project will work collaboratively with a group of ten children in conflict with the law who will be recruited to form a Young Advisory Group, then the Project Team and the Young Advisory Group will co-produce a programme of peer-led research, involving a wider group of 50 children in conflict with the law.

Looked After and Accommodated Children

[Updated guidance for kinship care legislation](#)

The Scottish Government has published updated non-statutory guidance to accompany Part 13 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 (Support for Kinship Care) and The Kinship Care Assistance (Scotland) Order 2016. The updated guidance reflects growing knowledge about the particular needs of children in kinship care and of their carers, and the supports which best enable carers to meet the needs of the children in their care. The format and content has been informed by carers and practitioners, including the need for the guidance to explain the legislation more clearly. Particular attention has been paid to consistency of definition, and good practice.

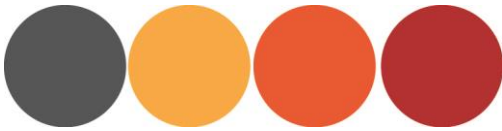
Mental Health

[Funding for family mental health organisations](#)

The Scottish Government has confirmed the Perinatal and Infant Mental Health Fund is now open for applications, which aims to enable organisations to provide a range of one-to-one and group-based support and care for parents, carers and new babies.

[Campaign to raise awareness of babies' good mental health](#)

The UK Government has launched a campaign to support parents in nurturing their bond with their baby, and raise awareness of the link between babies' good mental health and early childhood development. The campaign, 'Start for Life's If They Could Tell You' aims to highlight that babies' expressions, reactions, noises, and cries are the way they communicate their needs and feelings to parents which in some cases can be an indication of their mental wellbeing.



Other Health and Social Care

[Overview report on national child death data published](#)

Healthcare Improvement Scotland, in collaboration with the Care Inspectorate, has published the first data overview report summarising national child death data from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023. The report includes an overview of learning to date from child death reviews carried out by NHS boards, local authorities, health and social care partnerships, and partnerships with responsibility for reviewing child deaths, from the start of National Hub data collection on 1 October 2021.

Other

[Online learning portal for children's services practitioners](#)

Children in Scotland and the Open University have announced an online learning portal which aims to support practitioners working across children's services in Scotland. Courses are focused in key skill areas including education in the early years, additional support needs and mental health and wellbeing. As well as professional development specific to children's services, there are also courses in technology, leadership and equality, diversity and inclusion.

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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