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## **Covid-19 - General**

### [Timetable for public hearings in five investigations](#)

The UK Covid-19 Inquiry has set out detail on the timetable for public hearings in five investigations to run to summer 2025. The aim is for public hearings to be concluded by summer 2026, and the first report from the first investigation into Resilience and Preparedness (Module 1) will be published in mid-2024.



## **Child Protection**

### [Statistics on children subject to child protection processes](#)

The Scottish Government has published Child Protection Statistics for Scotland for 2022 to 2023 that cover data on children subject to child protection processes. Headline statistics include that on 31 July 2023, 2,094 children were on the Child Protection Register, during 2022-23, 3,231 children were registered onto the Child Protection Register, and the most common concerns identified at Case Conferences of children registered during the year were: domestic abuse (16%), neglect (15%), parental mental health problems (15%), parental substance misuse (15%), and emotional abuse (12%).

## **Early Learning and Childcare**

### [Childcare management tool](#)

Children in Scotland are highlighting a childcare management tool which aims to help parents to find, book and pay for all of their childcare needs – early learning & childcare, school age childcare and children's clubs and activities.

## **Equalities**

### [Scottish Government respond to UNCRC Concluding Observations](#)

The Scottish Government has published an initial response to the UN Committee's Concluding Observations, outlining the progress made in relation to children's rights in Scotland since the publication of the Position Statement of November 2022

## **Looked After and Accommodated Children**

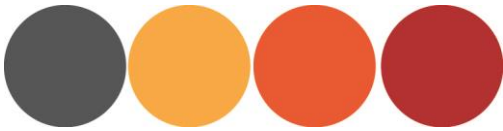
### [Guidance for Care Experienced Children and Young People Fund](#)

The Scottish Government has published Operational guidance for the Care Experienced Children and Young People Fund 2023 to 2024. The Care Experienced Children and Young People Fund is a targeted resource provided to local authorities to support care experienced children and young people from birth to the age of 26, and the guidance covers key principles, allocations, use and consideration of the funding, misconceptions, planning, accountability, reporting and impacts/outcomes.

## **Mental Health**

### [Children struggling with low mood or unhappiness](#)

Childline are reporting the delivery of counselling sessions to children struggling with feelings of low mood or unhappiness, and launching a campaign, 'Find Your Calm', encouraging children to find ways to cope. Unhappiness is the second highest sub concern seen by Childline under the main concern of 'mental health', and many of



the young people who spoke to Childline on this topic are also concerned about issues such as loneliness, confidence, loss and anxiety.

### **Other Health and Social Care**

#### [Consultation from Children's Commissioner on children's experiences \(England\)](#)

The Children's Commissioner for England is reporting on their consultation, 'Big Ambition', asking children how they feel and what their experience of growing up is like. The Big Ambition focuses on what needs to change in England to make childhood the best it can be, and the survey responses cover themes such as disempowerment, and restoring belief.

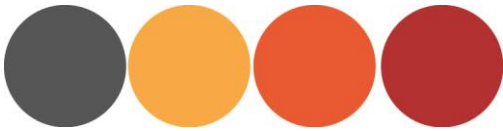
#### [NES Annual Virtual Conference 2024](#)

The NES (NHS Education for Scotland) annual conference will take place on 25 and 26 April this year. The event will be hosted online and is open to all professional disciplines across health and social care with an interest in education and training, workforce development and digital solutions.

### **Play**

#### [Inaugural International Day of Play on 11 June](#)

Following a resolution at the United Nations, the first International Day of Play will be held on 11 June, Early Years Scotland reports. The aim of the day will be to champion play, raise awareness of the need to protect children's right to play, and to emphasise its positive impact on development, physical well-being, and happiness.

**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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