



Children  
and  
Young  
People



[Covid-19 - General](#)

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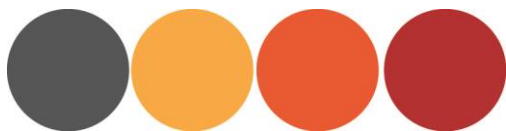
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The Care Inspectorate Policy Team produces weekly Adult & Health and Children & Young People bulletins and to continue to make improvements, we would welcome your feedback.

Thank you for taking the time to [complete this online survey](#). It should only take around 15 minutes to complete and your feedback will greatly assist us in the review process.



## **Covid-19 - General**

### [Timetable announced for next Inquiry Health and Social Care Impact Hearings](#)

The Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry has announced the provisional timetable for the Inquiry's Health and Social Care Impact Hearings (23–26 April), together with witnesses from bodies such as trades unions, Royal Colleges, and Societys.

### [Supplementary Covid academic research reports published](#)

Further academic research relating to two of the investigative portfolios have been published by the Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry. The new reports cover the impact of the pandemic and the public sector response on refugees and asylum seekers, and the impact of the pandemic on children and young people.

### [Research underway to hear about impact of pandemic on children and young people](#)

The UK Covid-19 Inquiry has confirmed that a research project is ready and underway to collect the experiences of children and young people about the impact of the pandemic. Findings drawn from the research will be used within the Inquiry's investigation into children and young people alongside evidence gathered as part of the investigation, expert evidence and analysis of existing research. This will enable the Inquiry to gain a comprehensive picture of the impact of the pandemic on children and young people and what lessons must be learned.

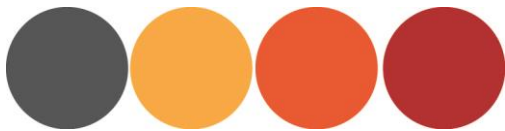
## **Child Protection**

### [Enhanced support for children and young people attending Children's Hearings](#)

The Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA) is highlighting the launch of a scrapbook for children and young people attending Children's Hearings in Stornaway. Part of a pilot project offering enhanced support, children six years old and over attending a Hearing will be sent an invite to a Pre-Hearing visit and will also receive a scrapbook before their Hearing and after their Hearing they will receive a personalised letter from the Reporter and an offer of a post Hearing meeting. The scrapbook will reportedly include pages for children and young people to write down how they are feeling, to customise their Hearing beforehand and to record Hearing decisions afterwards. It also contains information about their rights in the Children's Hearings System and where to find help and more information.

### [Concerns about lowering Whatsapp age requirement](#)

Bardardo's CEO Lynn Perry has reportedly raised concerns about Whatsapp lowering the minimum age requirement to 13 years old. Ms Perry notes that the lowered age requirement comes before appropriate and effective measures are in place to prevent harmful content from reaching children, and the need to keep children safe online.



## Justice

### [Concerns on support for child victims of domestic or sexual abuse \(England\)](#)

The Children's Commissioner for England has reported on figures reportedly showing that 92% of cases involving child victims of sexual violence or domestic abuse are receiving no direct advocacy support. The Children's Commissioner has called for children's statutory entitlement to independent advocacy to be expanded to include when they are victims of the most serious crimes, including a statutory definition of child criminal exploitation, more agency for children engaging with the criminal justice system, including around Victim Information Requests and the Independent Public Advocate role, a Victims Code of Practice for children, with strengthened accountability measures, and a national network of Child Houses which provide joined up care to child victims of the most serious crimes.

## Looked After and Accommodated Children

### [Work ongoing to nurture sibling and sibling-like relationships](#)

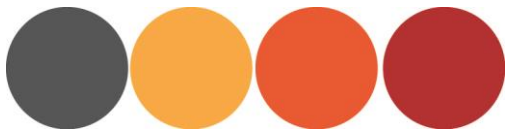
The Promise Scotland has published a blog by Karen Morrison, Chief Executive Officer of Siblings Reunited (STAR), to promote Siblings Day and highlight the work ongoing to nurture sibling and sibling-like relationships. Ms Morrison writes about her experience as a member of the Community of Practice for Siblings, the impact of teamwork and sharing knowledge/experience. Also noted is the need to provide opportunities for sibling and sibling-like relationships to flourish through offering regular, consistent changes to reconnect, creativity in planning time together, and ensuring each moment is special and valued.

### [Petition on extending aftercare for previously looked after young people](#)

The Scottish Throughcare & Aftercare Forum (Staf) has submitted evidence to a Scottish Parliament petition on extending aftercare for previously looked after young people, and removing the continuing care age cap. The submission discusses Staf's work with The Promise Scotland in facilitating '100 Days of Listening' to people either have experience of care or are part of the workforce supporting those with care experience. The submission also touches upon extending aftercare provision in Scotland to 'previously looked after' young people who left care before their 16th birthday, on the basis of individual need, extending Continuing Care throughout Care Experienced people's lives, on the basis of individual need, and ensuring Care Experienced people are able to enjoy lifelong rights and achieve equality with non-Care Experienced people.

### [Survey on experiences of children's social care \(England\)](#)

The House of Common's Education Committee has launched a survey asking care leavers of all ages about the help they received whilst in care and the types of accommodation they lived in, such as foster care, kinship, residential or adoption. Part of the Committee's ongoing inquiry into children's social care, the survey also asks questions that will help the MPs learn about the types of support



young people receive, including for their mental wellbeing, a disability, with their finances or help to find work or education.

## **Other Health and Social Care**

### [Progress report on Scotland's Health and Social Care Data Strategy](#)

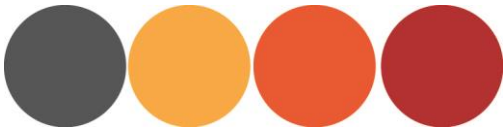
A progress update on the first year of Scotland's first health and social care data strategy has been published by the Scottish Government. The report highlights the steps taken to deliver on the strategy's visions and ambitions, including progressing work in developing an Integrated Social Care and Health Record which will prevent people having to retell their stories. It also notes progress in developing a Digital Front Door to allow people to digitally interact with their health and social care data, and work to improve the quality and consistency of protected characteristics data.

### [Duty of candour review \(England\)](#)

The Department of Health and Social Care has launched a call for evidence as part of its review of the statutory duty of candour for health and social care providers in England. The review was announced as part of the UK government's response to the Hillsborough disaster report, and looks to understand to what extent the duty of candour is honoured, monitored and enforced. The call for views will close on 29 May 2024.

### [People with lived experience invited to join National Healthcare Standards working group](#)

The Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (the ALLIANCE) has highlighted the opportunity to be part of a short-life working group to help develop a new set of National Healthcare Standards. The new standards, developed by Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS), will apply to everyone who receives assessments, treatment or support from healthcare professionals and will apply in all settings where people receive assessments, treatment or support from healthcare professionals. HIS are taking applications for those interested in becoming a member of the working group and those interested in becoming the Chairperson.



## 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.