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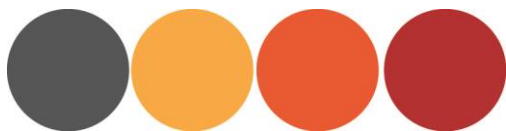
Covid-19 - General

[UK Covid-19 Inquiry publishes its first report](#)

The UK Covid-19 Inquiry has published its first report and recommendations following its investigation into the UK's resilience and preparedness for the pandemic (module 1). The inquiry's module 1 report concludes that "the processes, planning and policy of the civil contingency structures within the UK government and devolved administrations and civil services failed their citizens" and recommends fundamental reforms of how the UK government and devolved administrations in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales prepare for whole-system civil emergencies. A [brief of summary](#) of the report is also available.

[Children with long covid denied core participant status for inquiry](#)

Charities representing children and young people living with Long Covid have been refused core participant status for the UK Covid-19 public inquiry. Long Covid Kids and Long Covid Kids Scotland applied for core participant status for the inquiry's module 8 investigation which will look at the consequences of the pandemic on children and young people, however the inquiry's chair has provisionally refused to grant the groups core participant status. The inquiry has not finalised its list of core participants for Module 8 and has stressed that individuals and organisations don't need to have core participant status to provide evidence to the inquiry.



Child Protection

[NSPCC highlights increase in concerns about children being left home alone](#)

The NSPCC has reported a 65% increase in calls to its helpline about children being left home alone. Between April 2023 and March 2024 the NSPCC helpline received 7,802 contacts about a child being left home alone or unsupervised compared to 4,717 over the previous year. More than half of these concerns were considered serious enough by the NSPCC to make a referral to a local authority. The NSPCC has highlighted that July and August can be particularly difficult for many parents to balance the pressures from work and childcare, and that these challenges are likely to be more acute this year as the cost-of-living crisis continues.

Looked After and Accommodated Children

[Consultation on young people's experiences of leaving care](#)

The Scottish Government has launched a consultation on the experiences of young people leaving care and moving into adulthood. The government is seeking views around the support that is available to young people as they leave care and the areas impacting care leavers such as planning and preparation, Continuing Care, Aftercare, health and wellbeing, education, and housing. The consultation is open to all members of the public to share their views, however the government is keen to gather views from those who have care experience, kinship or foster carers, the birth family of a young person with care experience, or those who support young people with care experience during this time of transition in their lives. The consultation will close on 3 October 2024.

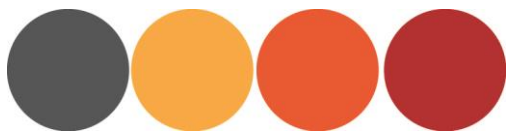
[Thematic review of children and young people on cross-border placements](#)

The Care Inspectorate has published a thematic review of the experiences of children and young people who are living in cross-border placements. The report includes the views and experiences of young people and staff working with them, and identifies areas for further discussion. The findings from the review cover preparation for placement and involvement in decision-making, travel arrangements to the placement, access to independent advocacy, legal representation, how well a young person was supported to engage and benefit from education, health and wellbeing, and the right to keep in touch with those important to them.

Other Health and Social Care

[New PHS report on addressing declines in childhood immunisations](#)

New research by Public Health Scotland (PHS) has found declining baby and pre-school immunisation rates over the past decade in Scotland. The report provides insight around behavioural factors affecting vaccine and notes that immunisation coordinators reported an 'anti-vax sentiment' as something directly affecting vaccine uptake. It also highlights that hesitancy around vaccinations has further increased due to an increased spread of misinformation during the Covid-19 pandemic. Other



factors influencing vaccine uptake include understanding the importance of immunisation, terminology used in NHS communications and system related factors such as invitation letters arriving the day before or after the scheduled appointment. The report outlines 15 recommendations to facilitate improvements in the uptake of childhood immunisation programmes.

[National RSV vaccination programme for pregnant woman](#)

A national respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccine programme protecting infants and elderly people is due to be rolled out in the UK this year. The programme will be rolled in Scotland from 12 August and will include a vaccine for pregnant women over 28 weeks to protect their newborn babies, and a routine programme for those over the age of 75.

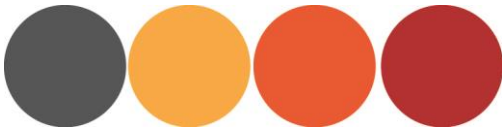
Other

[Legislation to incorporate UN Convention on the Rights of the Child now in force](#)

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act has now come into force in Scotland. The Act incorporates the UNCRC into Scots law and will mean that public authorities will be legally required respect and protect children's rights in all the work that they do. Statutory guidance to support those with duties under the Act will be published and a Children's Rights Skills and Knowledge Framework to support public authorities to embed children's rights in public services is also being developed by the Scottish Government.

[Potential implications of the King's Speech for Scotland](#)

The Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe) has prepared an overview of the King's Speech and focuses on its potential implications for Scotland. Out of the 40 Bills outlined, SPICe considers that 24 may apply to Scotland, either because the proposed legislation relates to a reserved matter or the territorial extent of some provisions of a Bill will extend to Scotland.



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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