



[Covid-19 - General](#)

[Additional Support Needs](#)

[Education](#)

[Looked After and Accommodated Children](#)

[Other Health and Social Care](#)

## **Covid-19 - General**

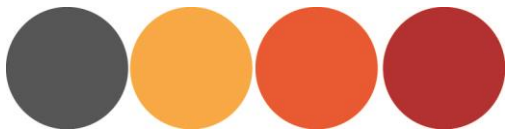
[Timeline published for education and business impact hearings](#)

The Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry has published the timeline for the hearings investigating the impacts of the pandemic on education and certification (Portfolio 4), and the impact of the pandemic on the financial and welfare support given to businesses and individuals (Portfolio 2). The Inquiry anticipates the hearings will end by 20 December 2024, subject to scheduling of witnesses.

## **Additional Support Needs**

[Calls for investment in ASN support from VAT on private school fees](#)

The Scottish Children's Services Coalition (SCSC) is calling for funding from adding VAT onto private school fees to assist in increasing support for pupils with additional Support Needs (ASN).



## Education

### [Speech outlines proposals for change at Ofsted \(England\)](#)

Ofsted's Chief Inspectors Sir Martyn Oliver has delivered a speech at the Children's Home Association (CHA) outlining proposals that may be included in a report to be published on changes to the organisation. Children & Young People Now reporting on the speech, quotes Sir Oliver's comments on the proposed shift away from single-word ratings and an introduction of a report card style report.

## Looked After and Accommodated Children

### [Study into care needs of young children in residential care](#)

A research study by the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA)'s Research Manager Dr Catherine Nixon reports on interviews conducted with residential and foster carers to understand more about when and how residential care is used for younger children aged five to 11 years old. The study reportedly highlights that many of the children were experiencing extreme distress and behavioural and mental health difficulties, and often did not have access to the therapeutic supports they needed, and foster carers were not always adequately equipped to provide appropriate care and support. Another point the study makes is that in the absence of community based supports, therapeutic residential care delivered in homely environments can be beneficial for younger children.

## Other Health and Social Care

### [Guidance for a child friendly approach to complaints](#)

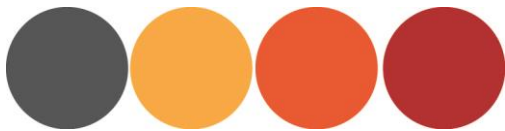
The Scottish Public Services Ombudsman (SPSO) has published guidance to support Scottish public services in taking a Child Friendly approach to complaints. SPSO's guidance explains how to handle complaints, so they are in keeping with the Child Friendly Complaints Principles that were approved by the Scottish Parliament on 5 June 2024. The guidance builds on existing local good practice, by explaining how to apply the Principles to complaints in a Children's rights based way.

### [SSSC to issue Practice Learning Support Grant to eligible social work students](#)

Social work students undertaking practice learning placements will be issued a grant of £750 to support them, the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has confirmed. With funding from the Scottish Government, the SSSC will pay the Practice Learning Support Grant directly to eligible students starting an assessed practice placement from August this year.

### [NMC responds to independent review of its culture, accepting all recommendations](#)

The Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) has set out steps towards change having accepted all the recommendations made in an independent review of its culture. The review [highlighted](#) safeguarding concerns, and found that people working in the



organisation have experienced racism, discrimination and bullying. The NMC has set out short-term, medium-term and long-term actions to address the review's recommendations, with enhanced oversight by the Professional Standards Authority.

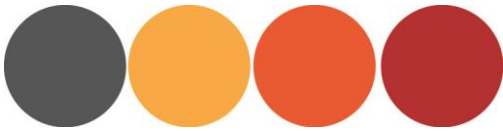
- The NMC has also published its [annual report and accounts](#) for 2023-24. The NMC permanent register had 826,418 nurses, midwives and nursing associates which is an increase of 4.8% since March last year.

#### [Accounts Commission reports on IJB finance and performance](#)

A report on the finance and performance of integration joint boards (IJBs) has been published by the Accounts Commission. The report highlights the “unprecedented” pressures and financial uncertainty faced by community health and social care, and suggests managing the crisis is taking precedence over prevention. The report includes a number of key messages, including a lack of evidence of the shift in the balance of care from hospitals to the community, as well as a general decline in performance, although it is suggested that data quality and availability is insufficient to fully assess IJB performance, alongside a lack of joined up data sharing. Among its recommendations, the report emphasises the need for whole-system collaborative working and service redesign focused on early intervention and prevention.

#### [Analysis of views on what needs to change to support social work](#)

An analysis of views on what needs to change to support social work in Scotland has been published following a collaboration between Social Work Scotland, the Scottish Association of Social Work and Unison. A survey put together by Dr Gillian MacIntyre and Dr Ailsa Stewart of the University of Strathclyde took a series of statements across three headings (the purpose of social work, how we work and leading and supporting social work) and asked social workers to what extent the statements reflected their experience of social work in Scotland in 2024. According to the analysis, underlying many of the comments received was a concern to uphold and recognise the values of the profession, and the impact experienced when those values were diluted, eroded or impossible to uphold due to lack of resources or workload pressures. It is hoped the findings will inform the development of a National Social Work Agency and its priorities.



## 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.