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Covid-19 - General

[Autumn vaccination rollout](#)

Public Health Scotland has highlighted the publication of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) advice to UK governments on the forthcoming Covid-19 vaccination programme. The JCVI advises that the vaccine should be offered to: adults aged 65 years and over; residents in a care home for older adults and; persons aged 6 months to 64 years in a clinical risk group. The Scottish Government and Public Health Scotland are finalising plans for the roll out of Scotland's winter vaccination programme, and details of how and when eligible people will receive their vaccine will be announced in due course.

Disability

[Survey to assess low vision services for children](#)

The ALLIANCE reports on a new survey by RNIB on low vision services for children. The charity is assessing whether services are tailored to children's needs, so they can access the support that they need and at the time they need it.



Education

[Social security support for families](#)

The Scottish Government has highlighted support available through Social Security Scotland for families with children returning to school next week. Five family payments administered by Social Security Scotland can help pay for extra back to school expenses alongside everyday family costs like food, clothing and days out.

Health

[Public health leaders call for urgent action on diet and weight](#)

A consensus statement by Public Health Scotland and the Scottish Directors of Public Health has outlined the need for action in improving the health and wellbeing of Scotland's population. The paper notes that one third of children starting primary school are at risk of being overweight or obese. The authors have called for healthy food to be available and affordable and for physical activity to be part of everyday life.

Looked After and Accommodated Children

[Funding to support parents with children in care](#)

The Scottish Government has confirmed details of funding for organisations working with families who have had a child taken into care. The investment will be delivered through the Corra Foundation and shared between 11 organisations who work closely with birth parents who see their mental health decline following their child being taken into care. The community organisations will work to help empower birth parents to take control of their lives, develop new skills and build their self-confidence.

[Housing support service launched for care-experienced young people](#)

A new service by Barnardo's has been launched to help care-experienced young people live independently and manage their own home. South Lanarkshire Futures provides an intensive wraparound transition support service to care-experienced young people aged 16 to 26 in care who require an alternative housing solution to what is currently available. Barnardo's runs a similar youth housing programme in North Lanarkshire, called Positive Destinations.

Mental Health

[Evidence map on self-harm in children and young people](#)

Public Health Scotland has published a pilot evidence and gap map on self-harm in children and young people. Carried out by the Evidence for Action Team, the research aims to answer questions on the evidence available on the risks and



protective factors that are associated with self-harm, and on the policies and interventions that have been investigated in the prevention of self-harm.

Play

[Survey highlights parents' views on in-person play](#)

A survey by the NSPCC has found the majority of parents recognise the benefits that in-person play can have on a child's wellbeing. The survey of over 1,000 parents, with children aged 18 or under, also found that 62 per of respondents, whose children play, would like their children to have more time to do so. The charity has reminded all families that play – whether that be online or offline – can be a useful way to manage worries and release stress.

[Blog on the positive impact of risk](#)

Play Scotland has published a blog on the importance of risk in childhood play experiences. The blog outlines the impact that running up and down hills, playing on undulating surfaces and experiencing movement in a range of planes can have on a child's developmental capacity. The article also notes that facing risk also engages children's brains as they naturally begin to assess the risk and their own capabilities.

Other Health and Social Care

[Deadline for views on National Care Service \(Scotland\) Bill extended](#)

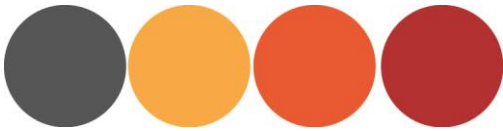
The Scottish Parliament's Health, Social Care and Sport Committee has announced an extension to the deadline for responses to its recent call for evidence on the National Care Service (Scotland) Bill. Responses are invited on the Scottish Government's draft amendments to the Bill at Stage 2, which were published in June. The deadline for written evidence is now 20 September 2024.

[Care complaints statistics published](#)

The Care Inspectorate has published a statistical bulletin on complaints about care services in Scotland, covering complaints received and investigated between April 2019 and March 2024. The Care Inspectorate received 5,646 complaints in 2023/24, a 4 per cent decrease on last year but still reflecting a long-term increasing trend.

[SSSC is seeking input to help build a careers opportunities tool for social care](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) is developing an online careers opportunities tool for the adult and children's social care workforce. The online tool will include information on up to 100 different job roles and careers available, and aims to help people working in social care or who are looking to join the sector to discover and navigate careers information. The SSSC are now inviting people at all stages in their career if they would like to take part in future workshops, demonstrations and surveys to help with the design of the new tool.



[Call for views on revised decisions guidance for fitness to practise panels and SSSC staff](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) is seeking views on proposed changes to the format and content of current decisions guidance for fitness to practise panels and SSSC staff. The proposed changes include changes to some of the wording around conditions in order to make it clearer who they apply to, more detail around equality, diversity and inclusion, and reference to conducting fitness to practise processes in a trauma informed way. The proposed changes are set out in full in the consultation survey and the draft revised guidance can be accessed [here](#). The SSSC is also hosting a number of online events in August and September for people to find out more about the proposed changes and to give their views. The consultation closes on 27 September.

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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