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Covid-19 - General

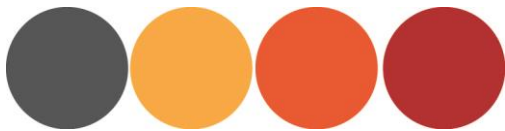
[Covid inquiry hears about impact of pandemic on children](#)

NurseryWorld has reported on the start of Module 8 of the UK Covid inquiry and its focus on the impact of the pandemic on children and young people. There have been calls from a number of children's rights organisations to recognise the "significant inequality" faced by children before, during and after Covid, especially those living in poverty. The impact of the pandemic on other specific groups, including families with babies, children and young people from BAME communities, and looked after children was raised during an inquiry preliminary hearing.

Child Protection

[Campaign to stop sharing of violence on social media](#)

A national campaign has been launched to support and protect young people affected by the sharing of violence on social media. Developed by the Scottish Violence Reduction Unit, YouthLink Scotland and Medics Against Violence, the new campaign is part of an action plan agreed in the Scottish Government's Violence Prevention Framework. 'Quit Fighting For Likes' aims to get young people to think about and discuss attitudes and behaviours around the filming and sharing of violent incidents.



Early Learning and Childcare

[Importance of ELC access highlighted by OECD report](#)

The OECD Directorate for Education and Skills has published the Education at a Glance 2024 report, which looks at educational attainment at all levels as well as labour market outcomes. The report found that across all OECD countries, children from low-income families were on average 16 percentage points less likely to be enrolled in early childhood education and care before the age of 3. The report highlights the importance of access to early learning and childcare, but also notes disparities in the available options depending on families' income level, such as the availability of sufficient childcare hours, and the proximity of publicly funded institutions across the OECD.

[Five further wraparound support partnerships announced](#)

The Scottish Government has highlighted five new place-based partnerships to tackle child poverty, through the provision of locally-based wraparound support including breakfast clubs, after-school childcare, holiday provision and childcare support. The five new partnerships are in Inverclyde, North Ayrshire, East Ayrshire, Aberdeen and Perth and Kinross.

[Booklet on registering and running a childminding service](#)

The Care Inspectorate has launched a booklet for anyone applying to register, or already running, a childminding service. It explains the requirements of the Care Inspectorate and provides information that will help when running a childminding service and what to expect from inspection.

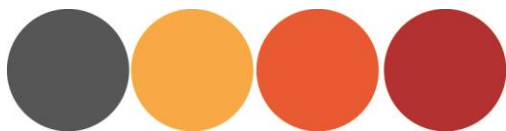
[Independent review of joint inspection arrangements \(Wales\)](#)

The Learning Partnership has concluded a review of the way joint inspections between Care Inspectorate Wales and Estyn work for regulated non-school settings providing early education for three and four year olds. The report overall is positive about the impact of the joint inspection programme, but it does highlight recommendations in which the approach could be improved for the two inspectorates to consider. CIW and Estyn will develop a response to the recommendations over the next 12 months.

Education

[Review ordered of teacher misconduct process](#)

The independent regulator for teachers, the General Teaching Council for Scotland, has commissioned an external review of the way it investigates teacher misconduct allegations. The review was ordered following a growing backlog of cases, one of which the BBC reports has lasted nearly eight years. The review of the fitness to teach process will be conducted by the Professional Standards Authority for Health and Social Care.



Equalities & Human Rights

[Human rights advice and advocacy map](#)

A new map of human rights advice and advocacy services has been published by the Scottish Human Rights Commission. Together with the Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland, the SHRC commissioned research to better understand the availability of human rights-related advice and advocacy services for all in Scotland. The research identified 262 services across Scotland that offer these services, but only 14% of this offered legal representation.

Health

[New report examines health and socioeconomic divides in Scotland](#)

The Health and Social Care Alliance (the ALLIANCE) has highlighted the publication of a report by the Scottish Health Equity Research Unit (SHERU) which looks at health and socioeconomic divides in Scotland. Key findings from the report suggests that core outcomes related to inequalities and health are not improving significantly and some are getting worse. The report also highlights concerns around key population-level indicators of health and living standards, including that life expectancy is no longer rising and that average living standards have yet to return to pre-2010 levels of growth.

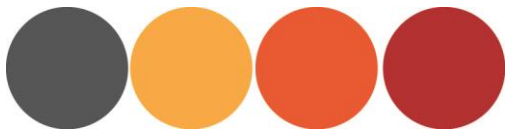
Looked After and Accommodated Children

[Permanently Progressing study on children experiencing care](#)

A major study of Scotland's care system and the experiences faced by looked after children and young people has been published following research led by the University of Stirling. The Permanently Progressing longitudinal study looked at the lives of all 1,836 children who became looked after in Scotland aged five or under in 2012-13, tracking their progress from infant to adult. Key findings include the length of time taken to find permanent homes for children, contact with siblings, the number of placements for individual children and the decisions made early in children's lives which influenced their permanence status.

[Feelings of loneliness and isolation for care experienced children \(England\)](#)

Action for Children has published a survey suggesting the majority of care-experienced adults in England felt lonely and isolated during their time as a looked after child. The report notes the need for further government action to improve the social care system in England, particularly on the quality of homes and the impact this has on the children living in them.



Workforce

[Social Work Scotland's Chief Social Work Officer survey report](#)

The Chief Social Work Officer (CSWO) survey report 2023-24 has been published by Social Work Scotland. The report analyses responses from all 32 CSWO across Scotland and highlights a number of themes and issues currently facing the sector. These include: sector-wide recruitment and retention problems, alongside an aging workforce; significant workload challenges leading to lack of personal development and role sustainability; and barriers to team development and change implementation due to role capacity.

[Resource to help upskill people working with young people](#)

NHS Education for Scotland, the Scottish Government and Education Scotland have launched the first in a suite of resources designed to support people working or volunteering with children and young people to upskill. The One Good Adult Job Description (OGA-JD) was written by children and young people and reflects what they say characterises adults who support their mental health and wellbeing.

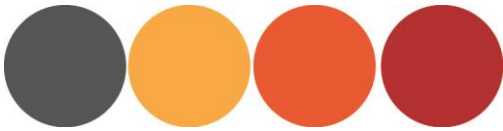
Other

[Scale of child poverty focus of Barnardo's report](#)

Barnardo's has published research on child poverty in Scotland, following a nationwide survey. The charity said one in four parents of children aged 18 or under in Scotland have struggled to provide sufficient food for their children in the past 12 months due to the ongoing cost-of-living crisis. This represents a rise of 8% since October 2022 and Barnardo's warned the cost of living crisis continues to affect families across the country. The study also found 27% of Scottish parents experienced struggles with providing food for their children, while 54% of the same group claimed that they had to reduce their spending on food costs to save money over the same period. Meanwhile, 7% of parents said they had used a food bank in the past year.

[Parliamentary Committee makes recommendations to improve SDS](#)

The Scottish Parliament's Health, Social Care and Sport Committee has published its phase 2 report on post-legislative scrutiny of the Social Care (Self-directed Support) (Scotland) Act 2013. The report makes a number of recommendations on how to improve implementation of SDS, suggesting there need to be a "shift of emphasis" away from the four Options set out in the Act and towards the underlying principles of choice and control. The Committee also recommends the Scottish Government produce new guidance on SDS implementation, providing a framework to achieve positive outcomes for individuals in creative and flexible ways.

**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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