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Covid-19 - General

[Module 10 of the UK Covid-19 Inquiry opened](#)

The final investigation of the UK Covid-19 Inquiry has now opened. Module 10 'Impact on Society' will consider the impact of the pandemic on the UK's population, including the impact on mental health and wellbeing, with a particular focus on the experiences of key workers, the most vulnerable and those bereaved during the pandemic.

[Survey for businesses to share pandemic experiences](#)

The Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry survey for the business community will close on 30 September 2024. The survey is open to businesses of all sizes, including third sector organisations such as charities, social enterprises and community groups, and for-profit organisations, to share their experiences of the pandemic.



Early Learning and Childcare

[Study suggests relaxed ratios for two year olds may may not work \(England\)](#)

Nursery World reports on a study by Nottingham Trent University and the University of Northampton, which is based upon responses from 154 staff working in early years settings, and suggests the 1:5 ratio for two-year-olds in England 'simply doesn't work' in nurseries where it has been implemented. According to the research, respondents working to relaxed ratios reportedly feel they are taking on more of a 'crowd control role', than education and early child development.

Equalities

[Guidance on Part 2 and Part 3 of the UNCRC Incorporation Act](#)

The Scottish Government has published statutory guidance for Part 2 of the UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024, providing accessible information for public authorities to understand and fulfil their duties under section 6 of the Act and to secure better or further effect of children's rights. [Statutory guidance on Part 3 of the Act](#) has also been published for those with responsibilities within listed public authorities for implementing and delivering on the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) Act, which includes annexes with suggested reporting formats, information on inclusive communication and on producing child friendly reports.

Also published is guidance to help public authorities understand the many [sources of interpretation](#) and [information](#) to assist public authorities in Scotland when considering their duty to act compatibly with the UNCRC requirements as defined by the Act.

Justice

[Challenges faced by young adults in the justice system](#)

The Children and Young People's Centre for Justice (CYCJ) has published an overview of the Socially Just Justice initiative, which has been exploring the challenges faced by young adults in the justice system. Key findings in relation to employability include the need for employers to be educated about the young people's experiences and backgrounds, clear communication regarding job and training opportunities, and the importance of fair wages.

[Evaluation of Bairns Hoose project](#)

The evaluation of Phase Two of the North Strathclyde Bairns Hoose has been published by the Child Safety, Justice and Recovery Research Group, reports Children 1st. Data has been gathered from children, families and professionals in the first seven months following the launch of the Bairns Hoose in August 2023, and evaluation of the data has reportedly found that the facility is already deeply valued by children, parents, professionals and the wider support system. Lessons learned



include the importance of strong partnership working between agencies, built upon common values, shared vision and clear governance.

Looked After and Accommodated Children

[Progress update on The Promise](#)

The Scottish Government has published a progress report on the Promise Implementation Plan. The report presents an update on the key commitments and activity against the key themes of Keeping Families Together Through Whole Family Support And Support for Our Care Experienced Children, Young People and Adults; A Good Childhood for Our Children and Young People; Creating The Right Scaffolding; and Building Capacity.

[Report on issues facing age disputed young people](#)

Just Right Scotland has published a report on the issues facing age disputed young people in Scotland such as struggling to access or being denied support from local authorities. The report also aims to bring some clarity around local authorities' obligations towards age disputed young people. There are a number of recommendations for the Home Office, Scottish Government, Police Scotland and Scottish Local Authorities, including limiting decisions to treat a young person as an adult only in exceptional circumstances, reviewing the Age Assessment Guidance, and keeping a clear record of age disputed young people who are referred.

Other Health and Social Care

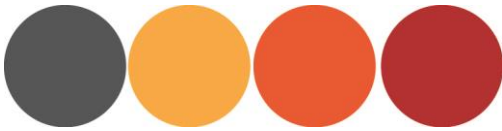
[COSLA raises concerns around model of shared accountability for NCS](#)

COSLA has written to the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee expressing concerns in relation to the National Care Service (Scotland) Bill and draft amendments brought forward by the Scottish Government. Council leaders have raised concerns that the draft revised legislative approach outlined by Scottish Government does not effectively represent a clear model of shared accountability. COSLA notes that it is in the process of seeking further engagement with the Scottish Government to address these concerns ahead of the formal Stage 2 process. In its letter, COSLA has also suggested that there is still insufficient evidence to support the inclusion of children's, justice social work and homelessness services within the scope of the National Care Service Board.

Workforce

[Fitness to practise referrals for Newly Qualified Social Workers](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has published information on fitness to practise referrals for Newly Qualified Social Workers (NQSW) and what effects the NQSW Supported Year might have. The SSSC notes that the same professional standards apply for NQSWs as for other social workers, but notes that NQSW's



relative inexperience may be considered a mitigating factor when deciding whether their actions impair their fitness to practise.

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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