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Covid-19

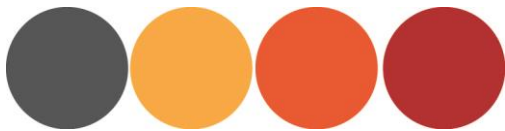
[Scottish Government response to UK Covid Inquiry's recommendations](#)

The Scottish Government has confirmed that they will act on all recommendations relating to Scotland in the UK Covid-19 Inquiry's report on pandemic resilience and preparedness of the United Kingdom. The Deputy First Minister has stated that work is already underway in a number of areas including pandemic planning, improving risk assessment processes and ensuring the availability of reliable health, economic and social data, as well as a Ministerial Oversight Group to co-ordinate preparedness across Government.

Child Protection

[Policy position on restrictive practices](#)

The Care Inspectorate has published a policy position on the use of restrictive practice in all services. The statement reflects our position that restrictive practice, including restraint, seclusion, segregation and other less direct practices, is used as a last resort and where the risks and benefits to the person have been considered within a legal, ethical and practical framework. The statement includes reference to legislation and standards which guide the Care Inspectorate on the issue of restraint.



[Scottish Government calls for action on online safety](#)

Scottish Government ministers have written to the UK Government calling for action on online safety. The letter, signed by Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise Natalie Don-Innes and Minister for Victims and Community Safety Siobhian Brown, invites further cooperation between the governments on further legislative action to protect children and young people online. They also refer to communication between the First Minister and social media companies on the issue.

Early Learning and Childcare

[Self-evaluation toolkit for childminders](#)

The Scottish Childminding Association has launched its self-evaluation toolkit resource for all childminders in Scotland, to support their reflection on what's working well in their setting and where any improvements can be made. The toolkit is part of SCMA's work with the Scottish Government to test innovative retention measures to support the childminding workforce through Programme for Scotland's Childminding Future.

Education

[Scottish School Grounds Survey](#)

Play Scotland is working with partners to deliver the Scottish School Grounds Survey, to explore outdoor spaces in Scottish schools and how they are used. The findings of the survey will be published in early summer 2025 and will aim to inform policy and best practice.

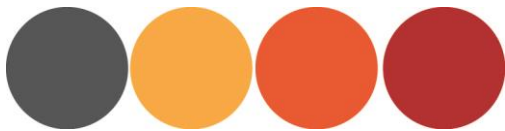
Justice

[Justice Secretary responds to Fatal Accident Inquiry](#)

The determination of the Fatal Accident Inquiry into the deaths of Katie Allan and William Lindsay (also known as Brown) at Polmont YOI was published this week and the Justice Secretary, Angela Constance, responded to the findings. She said the recommendations given by Sheriff Collins and comments regarding systemic failures would be given full consideration by the Scottish Government. A Ministerial Statement is due in Parliament this week.

[Evaluation report on Child Friendly Scheduling for Hearings](#)

The Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA) has published an evaluation report on its Child Friendly Scheduling programme, which was launched in 2023 as one of the SCRA's Keeping The Promise improvement projects. The project aims to improve the promotion of children and young people's voices being included in decisions about their Hearings. Pilots in Ayrshire, Fife, Grampian, Moray and Renfrewshire focused on identifying whether alterations to how Hearings are scheduled could improve children's knowledge of their participation options.



[First ruling on UNCRC Act welcomed](#)

The Children and Young People's Centre for Justice has welcomed the first ever judicial ruling on the UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024, which found that the Lord Advocate must comply with the UNCRC when considering prosecuting a child. The case looked at the treatment of children who are prosecuted through the criminal justice system and considered if this process needs to comply with the Act.

Other

[Parenting with adults briefing](#)

Parenting across Scotland have published a briefing paper offering an overview of the current evidence and policy landscape of parenting adults. The paper explores situations when parenting support for adults can arise, such as when an adult child has or develops a health conditions or disability. Parenting across Scotland has also published recommendations, including the need for more research to be commissioned in this area.

[Statistical Summary Report for Quarter 3 of 2024/25](#)

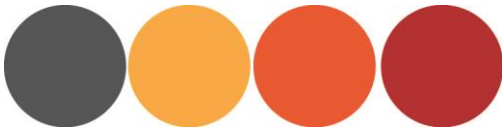
The Care Inspectorate Statistical Summary Report for Quarter 3 of 2024/25 has now been released. This presents data on the number of registered care services, new registrations and cancellations, complaints about care services and quality theme grades all by care service type and or service sector. This is updated on a quarterly basis.

[Ten year strategy published for social services institute](#)

The Institute for Research and Innovation in Social Services (Iriss) has published a year strategy outlining the organisations priorities, goals and ambitions for the next ten years. The document defines three areas for 'Key Resets' where Iriss working with the broader sector can provide the conditions for social work and social care to flourish, alongside practical ideas for focusing effort and evaluating success.

[Survey of people working in or who have worked in social services in Scotland](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) is conducting a survey of people working in, or who have worked in, social services in Scotland, to help build a picture of people's experiences. They are looking for workers in all kinds of social work, social care and children and young people roles, and they don't need to be registered with the SSSC, to share their views on wellbeing, pay, terms and conditions, support for, and access to, training and qualifications and experiences of working in the sector. The 'Have Your Say Workforce Wellbeing Survey' should take around 15 minutes to complete and closes at 5pm on Friday 14 February.

**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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