



Children
and
Young
People



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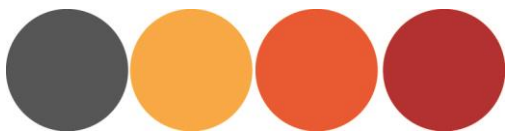
Covid-19

[Monthly update for Scottish Covid Inquiry](#)

The Chief Executive for the Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry has issued a monthly update for February 2025, highlighting the impact hearings held, next phase, engagement with the public participation project, and academic research published.

[UK Covid Inquiry preliminary hearings for care sector and test, trace, isolate modules](#)

The UK Covid-19 Inquiry will hold preliminary hearings for two of its investigations in early February, the 'Care sector' and 'Test, trace and isolate' hearings will help the Inquiry Chair make decisions about how investigations will run.



Education

[Residential outdoor education bill passes first committee vote](#)

The Scottish Parliament's Education, Children and Young People Committee has voted to agree with the general principles of the Schools (Residential Outdoor Education)(Scotland) Bill. The Bill aims to allow all pupils in state and grant-aided schools to have at least four nights and five days of residential outdoor education during their school career. However, the Committee unanimously agreed that concerns related to the costs, provision for pupils with additional support needs and the impact on teachers need to be resolved if the Bill is to become law.

[Ofsted consulting on changes to inspection of education providers \(England\)](#)

Ofsted has launched a consultation, seeking the views of parents, carers, professionals and learners, on a new approach to inspecting and reporting on education providers, including a report card-style inspection report, replacing the 'single word judgement' with a new 5-point, colour-coded grading scale for each evaluation area, including a new top 'exemplary' grade to help raise standards, and returning to schools with identified weaknesses to check action is being taken to raise standards. Under the proposals, evaluation areas differ slightly by education phase (early years, schools, further education) but in all cases include a new focus on inclusion, and more contextual data will be included in inspections and reports, such as learner characteristics, performance outcomes, absence and attendance figures, and local area demographics.

Justice

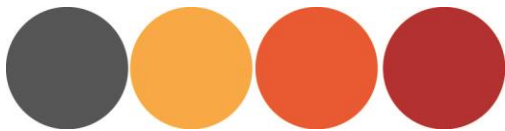
[Recruiting Panel Members for children's hearings](#)

Children's Hearings Scotland are recruiting volunteers as Panel Members as part of capacity-building work ahead of the implementation of the Children (Care and Justice)(Scotland) Act 2024. They are looking for Panel Members for North Strathclyde; Ayrshire; Central; Highland, Moray & Eilean Siar; Lanarkshire, Dumfries & Galloway; and Tayside & Fife until 24 February 2025 with applicants for other areas to be invited to apply later in 2025.

Looked After and Accommodated Children

[Third progress report for The Promise](#)

The Promise Oversight Board has published the third of its progress reports, looking at whole family support and workforce. 'Report THREE' has found that unexpected events and systematic barriers have delayed implementation, in particular issues impacting the workforce and whole family support have meant the promise is not halfway to being kept by 2030, but the Board remains confident that the promise can be kept, having seen the progress that has been made and the restated commitment of those responsible for delivering it.



The First Minister John Swinney has also [published an open letter](#) to the care-experienced community on the fifth anniversary of The Promise, reiterating the commitment to the promise made to ensure young people with care experience grow up loved, safe, and respected.

[Changes to child detention powers for unaccompanied children](#)

Children & Young People Now reports that child detention powers will be limited in the Border Security, Asylum and Immigration Bill, preserving the status quo of the Immigration Act 2014, meaning that unaccompanied children can only be detained for 24 hours in airport and other short-term facilities and children in families can only be detained for 72 hours, or a week if personally authorised by the minister and in special facilities and with certain safeguards. Additionally, it is reported that Home Office powers to keep unaccompanied children out of the normal care system will be repealed.

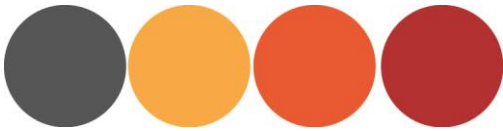
Other Health and Social Care

[Become an inspection volunteer](#)

Our work is improved by involving people who use services and their carers. We have many innovative ways that people can get involved with us and can influence our work. If you have personal experience of using a service or you have cared for someone close who has used a service there are many ways you can get involved with us. You do not have to have any qualifications. Your personal experience gives you a unique insight. If you would like to find out more about becoming an inspection volunteer, need help to complete the application form or would like us to post you an application form, please email us at get.involved@careinspectorate.gov.scot

[Scrutiny of child poverty legislation](#)

The Scottish Parliament's Social Justice and Social Security Committee has published a post-legislative scrutiny report of the Children Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017, focusing on the impact of the Scottish Child Payment the efforts to increase earnings from parental employment, and exploring the difference a statutory rather than non-statutory approach has made to achieving the policy aims. Overall, the evidence received has indicated the general view that the Act has had a positive impact by creating a more strategic, whole-government focus on child poverty and by ensuring that child poverty issues are visible and kept on the agenda at a senior leadership level. However, there is some concern about the lack of sufficient action and resources provided for commitments to ensure that the targets are met and to drive necessary substantial change. The Committee report concludes that the Scottish Government needs to intensify its efforts, consider how to work better across government and with local partners, and is looking forward to the Scottish Government sharing its vision for the coming years.



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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