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Child Protection

[Abuse inquiry to hear closing submissions for Phase 8 investigation](#)

The Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry is to hear closing submissions relating to Phase 8 of its investigations, which has focused on the abuse of children in residential accommodation for young offenders under 18, children and young persons under 18 awaiting trial, and young persons under 18 in need of care and protection. Common themes heard from individuals during the evidence hearings include having a lack of trust in people, especially those in authoritative positions, a negative impact on education and lifelong learning, an inability to form and maintain relationships, a fear of doors and locked spaces even within their own homes, a feeling of shame about sharing their experiences – with their partners and family in some instances as well as in more formal settings, a belief that being in these settings in the first place introduced applicants to a life of crime that they went on to become involved in, and the effect on their mental health and that, in many cases, leading to addiction, such as to alcohol and/or drugs.



Covid-19

[Concerns expressed to Health Committee on children with Long Covid](#)

Long Covid Kids has written to the Scottish Parliament's Health, Social Care and Sport Committee on their concerns about the challenges faced by children and young people with Long Covid in accessing appropriate healthcare and support. The letter goes into detail on the key issues as the organisation sees them, including limited and inconsistent paediatric Long Covid services, failure to implement the Long Covid Inquiry (2023) recommendations, lack of transparency on funding, no parliamentary oversight since the Covid-19 recovery committee was dissolved, failure to conduct an equality and human rights impact assessment (EQIA) for Children, and lack of public awareness and stigma around paediatric Long Covid.

[Scottish Covid Inquiry to publish all remaining health and social care statements](#)

The Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry intends to publish any health and social care impact statements which have not been heard in oral evidence. Publication of these statements is scheduled to coincide with the publication of the Portfolio 3 (health and social care) narrative record, and the Inquiry will publish the statements in accordance with any Restriction Orders granted by the Chair.

[Uk Covid Inquiry to start hearings on the impact on society](#)

The UK Covid-19 Inquiry will start the first preliminary hearing for the tenth, and final, investigation, focusing on the 'Impact on Society'. The tenth investigation will examine the impact of Covid-19 on the population of the United Kingdom with a particular focus on key workers, the most vulnerable, the bereaved, mental health and wellbeing, and will also seek to identify where societal strengths, resilience and or innovation reduced any adverse impact.

Early Learning and Childcare

[Update on timescales for publication of ELC Sustainable Rates Guidance](#)

The Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) is drawing their members' attention to the Scottish Government update outlining the planned timescales for the publication of their 2025-2026 Sustainable Rates Guidance, which will apply to those delivering funded Early Learning and Childcare (ELC). Reportedly, the Scottish Government is currently working with COSLA to finalise the new sustainable rates guidance for 2025-26, confirm how the additional £9.7 million that has been made available for the real Living Wage uplift from April 2025 will be passed to providers, and provide updates based on the recommendations of the joint Scottish Government and COSLA Sustainable Rates Review.



Mental Health

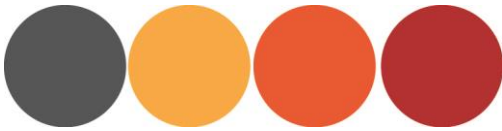
[Children's Commissioner on allegations of restraint at psychiatric hospital](#)

The Children & Young People's Commissioner Scotland has commented on the allegations relating to children's experiences while receiving treatment at the psychiatric hospital Skye House. The Commissioner refers to her office's calls for the Scottish Government to introduce "legal protection for children on the use of physical restraint and seclusion in all situations where children are in the care of the State, including schools, mental health provision and secure accommodation, along with mandatory recording and reporting of all incidents."

Other Health and Social Care

[Review of Children's Services Plans](#)

The Scottish Government has published 'Improving outcomes for children, young people and families: Review of Scotland's Children's Services Plans (2023-2026) and strategic engagement', which reviews the 30 Children's Services Plans (CSPs) which cover the planning cycle for 2023 to 2026 and presents key findings. The report highlights areas of strength, improvement and examples of good practice identified from the analysis of the thirty CSPs, and also provides an overview of the evolving policy context and impacts relevant to outcomes for children, young people and families since the previous review in 2021. The areas of strength identified are the same as in the previous review, and include a clear and shared visions across partners, evidence of a range of children's services, with a focus on prevention and early intervention, and consideration of children's rights under UNCRC and participation. Areas for further development include detail on budget and resourcing information, including workforce, a clearly defined approach to monitoring and evaluating progress, and detail on related services, which considers community-based support, as well as adult services provided to parents or carers, which are again similar to those identified in the previous review.



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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