

## **Scottish Government Early Learning and Childcare COVID-19 Update** **No. 9 – November 2020**

As you'll be aware, we are replacing our monthly Programme Updates with regular COVID-19 newsletters for the duration of the pandemic response. We'll send these to you as often as we have news to share. Previous editions of this update can be found [here](#).

Take care

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Interim Director, Early Learning and Childcare

### **1. Key information, guidance and contact points**

Throughout this update, we have provided links to the latest guidance and information. **As you will appreciate, the situation continues to change so please continue to check the Scottish Government's website regularly for the latest guidance and information – see <https://www.gov.scot/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance/>**

If you have any questions or issues you would like to raise with the team, please use the contact details below and we will respond as soon as we can. Please email:

- [ELCPartnershipForum@gov.scot](mailto:ELCPartnershipForum@gov.scot) for enquiries about support for providers and parents;
- [outofschoolcare@gov.scot](mailto:outofschoolcare@gov.scot) for enquiries about school age childcare provision;
- [ELCDeliverySupport@gov.scot](mailto:ELCDeliverySupport@gov.scot) if you work in a local authority team looking for advice or support about early learning and childcare, or contact your link person in the delivery team;
- [outdoorELC@gov.scot](mailto:outdoorELC@gov.scot) for outdoor play and learning queries in ELC.
- [ELCProgrammeOffice@gov.scot](mailto:ELCProgrammeOffice@gov.scot) for any other queries.

To keep up to date with all the most relevant information and guidance, follow us on Twitter @ELCScotGov and @OSCSotGov or join the Knowledge Hub.

Local authorities can register on the Knowledge Hub at <https://www.khub.net> and request to join [Early Learning and Childcare \(ELC\) Expansion Scotland: Local Authorities](#).

### **2. Scotland's Strategic Framework**

Our priority is the safety of every individual in Scotland. The virus still exists and it is important that we continue to follow the guidance around physical distancing (where possible), increased hygiene measures and that you self-isolate if you or members of your household have any symptoms of coronavirus. More information can be found at [NHS Inform](#).

Scotland's Strategic Framework, available [here](#), sets out the strategic approach to suppress the virus to the lowest possible level and keep it there.


To best tackle the virus, and protect people, we have moved to a strategic approach to outbreak management based on five levels of protection.

A levels approach allows us to respond on a national basis if required, but also to avoid a 'one size fits all' approach if it is not. It will mean that one part of the country with low rates of infection does not have to live with the level of protective measures designed to suppress the virus in areas with much higher rates.

[Local protection levels](#) have been set for each local authority area across Scotland. Levels will be reviewed weekly in the light of the evolving situation to decide whether levels should be maintained, increased, or reduced.

### What does this announcement mean for the Childcare sector?

Each level has different impacts for regulated childcare outlined in the table below:

Strategic Framework		 Scottish Government Rìghaltas na h-Alba gov.scot			
	Level 0	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
<b>Informal Childcare</b>	Permitted in line with household/numbers restrictions (See Socialising)	Permitted in line with household/numbers restrictions	Permitted in line with household/numbers restrictions	Permitted in line with household/numbers restrictions	Essential worker informal childcare only. In line with household/numbers restrictions, children only may enter other households
<b>ELC/Formal Childcare</b>	<b>Open</b> - with standard protective measures in place	<b>Open</b> - with standard protective measures in place	<b>Open</b> - with standard protective measures in place	<b>Open</b> - with enhanced protective measures in place	<b>Open</b> , subject to targeted intervention which may impact on capacity

As set out in the Strategic Framework and as stated by the Deputy First Minister, keeping childcare and schools open is a priority across all levels. As part of the review of the suite of guidance for the childcare sector we have worked with local authorities, the Care Inspectorate, representative bodies and other stakeholders to understand the guidance in practice. We have also sought further expert public health advice and scientific evidence from the COVID-19 Advisory Sub-Group on Education and Children’s issues. The guidance has also been updated to reflect the Strategic Framework.

The updated guidance took effect from Monday 2 November and the documents can be found here:

- [Guidance for early learning and childcare services](#)
- [Guidance for childminding services](#)
- [Guidance for school aged childcare services](#)

The evidence from the expert public health and scientific group can be found here:

- [Evidence from the COVID-19 sub-group on Education and Children’s issues](#)

## **Level 4**

From Friday 20 November until Friday 11 December 11 local authority areas will be in level 4. Full details on level 4 restrictions can be found [here](#).

The 11 local authority areas in level 4 are:

The City of Glasgow  
Renfrewshire  
East Renfrewshire  
East Dunbartonshire  
West Dunbartonshire  
North Lanarkshire  
South Lanarkshire  
East Ayrshire  
South Ayrshire  
Stirling  
West Lothian

We wrote to all childcare providers and childminders in these areas on Friday 20 November to explain that no changes were required to how settings currently operate and they should continue to follow the published guidance relevant to their type of setting. If any changes are required settings will be contacted by local Public Health teams.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

The frequently asked questions section will be updated in line with the updated guidance and published shortly.

We hope that this will support providers in utilising the guidance, and assist parents who may have queries relating to how settings will operate.

## **3. Advisory Sub-Group on Education and Children's Issues - evidence on children, schools, early learning and childcare settings and transmission from COVID-19 - summary report**

On 18 November 2020 the Scottish Government released a [report](#) of the evidence on children, schools, early learning and childcare settings and transmission from COVID-19.

The paper provides a summary of the latest evidence regarding the interactions between Covid-19 and school / early learning and childcare (ELC) settings. Specifically, it sets out our understanding of: the role of children in transmission of COVID-19; the risks to children and young people from COVID-19 or from being out of school; workplace-associated risks to staff from COVID-19; the approach to reducing risks in schools; and data on attendance and absences.

There is a need to continue to consider the balance of risks and harms in light of any new trends in data, evidence and scientific advice, including the potential direct health risks to children and staff from COVID-19; the wider impact on community transmission of schools reopening; and the direct risks to mental health, wellbeing, development, educational attainment and health outcomes from school closures.

#### **4. Access to testing for childcare staff**

We wrote to all local authorities and childcare providers on Monday 24 August to highlight the change to Testing and set out the options for ELC or childcare, including school age childcare, staff to access testing for COVID-19. This letter can be found [here](#).

It addresses the circumstances where testing is essential as well as situations where staff who are concerned that they may have been exposed to COVID-19 may consider accessing testing. At the present time access to this testing route is not available for childminders.

#### **5. Quarantine**

The Scottish Government's Chief Medical Officer, Chief Nursing Officer and National Clinical Director wrote to all childcare providers on 19 August with a note outlining that those self-isolating after recently returning from countries not exempt from quarantine should not go out to work, childcare, school or visit public areas. This note can be found [here](#).

They asked that all Childcare providers familiarise themselves with the information and guidance around self-isolating on the return from non-exempt countries. The note also asked that providers ensure safeguarding measures are in place and that they communicate and engage these requirements immediately to all families to ensure adherence to the legal requirements.

The relevant guidance can be found here <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-public-health-checks-at-borders/pages/overview/> and the list of exempt countries is available at <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-public-health-checks-at-borders/pages/exemptions/>.

#### **6. Information for parents and carers**

[Parent Club](#) continues to be updated regularly to give parents and carers updated information relating to Covid-19 restrictions or changes. If you work with parents and carers, you might find the FAQs helpful, and/or may wish to share them directly with parents.

Key links for sharing social media:

- <https://www.facebook.com/ParentClubScotland> - Parent Club Scotland Facebook page
- <https://www.instagram.com/parentclubscotland> - Parent Club Instagram page

We are planning a smaller ELC campaign in early 2021 and we are working with The Union marketing agency again.. We will be using the 'This Much' campaign materials that worked well earlier this year and received very positive evaluation. Aisling and colleagues from The Union will be in touch with local authorities to consider what materials might be helpful to you.

As of 26 October, the **families.scot** website is no longer live and will redirect to Parent Club. We have been working with local authorities that used this website, to ensure they have alternative channels for communicating with families.

Specific resources have been created for parents to support understanding of outdoor learning, and to support families to take up outdoor play opportunities. Please see below section on outdoor learning for more information and links.

Please contact Katherine Tierney's ELC: Access and Parental Communications team through the [ELCPartnershipForum@gov.scot](mailto:ELCPartnershipForum@gov.scot) mailbox with further suggestions for the Parent Club FAQ or other parental communication.

## **7. Provider Survey – Partnership working**

The Scottish Government with COSLA are keen to hear from providers about interest in taking part in future partnership related events run or supported through the ELC Partnership Forum arrangements.

A brief survey calling for expressions of interest will issue shortly. We really appreciate if providers would take time to complete the survey.

The survey will be distributed via the ELC representative bodies and the Care Inspectorate.

## **8. Transitional Support Fund for Day Care of Children Services**

The Transitional Support Fund closed to applications on 9 October and local authorities are continuing to process grant application forms and any outstanding payments will be made by Wednesday 2 December.

The Transitional Support Fund was launched to help day care of children providers in the private, voluntary and not-for profit sectors, including out-of-school care providers, meet the extra costs incurred to comply with [public health guidance](#) in response to COVID-19. The Fund has provided one-off grants to eligible settings.

**Contact info: Euan Carmichael's Service Models Team at [ELCPartnershipForum@gov.scot](mailto:ELCPartnershipForum@gov.scot)**

## **9. Extension of the Childminding Workforce Support Fund**

The Childminding Workforce Support Fund was initially launched on 16 July 2020 to provide support to childminders who are facing hardship and, in particular, who have not been able to access financial support through other routes.

The Fund, which was initially jointly funded by the Scottish Government and the Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA), made £60,000 of support available. There was significant demand for the fund and a first round of grants were paid following closure to new applicants on 17 July 2020.

The Scottish Government has provided additional funding of £390,000 to the Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) to extend the Childminding Workforce Support Fund. This includes covering the costs of administering the fund up to £60,000. The funding will offer grants of £350 to eligible childminders who have been unable to access support through other routes.

The second phase of the Childminding Workforce Support Fund [closed for new applications](#) on 19 October, and following completion of the assessment process further grant payments to successful applicants are currently being made.

**Contact info: Euan Carmichael's Service Models Team at [ELCPartnershipForum@gov.scot](mailto:ELCPartnershipForum@gov.scot)**

## **10. Our Commitment to Childminding - Action Plan**

Thank you to all who supported us in the development of a Childminding Action Plan to capture our commitments to childminding in Scotland. This is almost ready for publication and we will be sharing this in the coming few weeks.

**Contact Info:** Luke McPherson at [Luke.McPherson@gov.scot](mailto:Luke.McPherson@gov.scot)

## **11. Other Financial and Business Support for childcare providers**

A range of financial and business support measures have been made available by the UK and Scottish Governments since March. Information about the different schemes that may be available to private and third sector providers and childminders is available on the Scottish Government's website and updated regularly at:

[Information for private and third sector childcare providers about business support](#)  
[Information for Childminders about business and financial support](#)

It was announced on the 5 November that the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, which is a UK Government Scheme, will now operate until 31 March 2021. Further information on this extension be found [here](#).

**Please continue to share your questions with Euan Carmichael's Service Models Team through the [ELCPartnershipForum@gov.scot](mailto:ELCPartnershipForum@gov.scot) mailbox.** We are working through them as quickly as we can.

## **12. Childcare Sector Working Group**

At the last full meeting of the ELC and Childcare Sector - Working Group (Sector Recovery Group) on 13 September, the group concluded that its work could be paused. This decision was reached as the work of the group had focussed primarily on helping to shape guidance and formulate support to the childcare sector in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and to best prepare the sector to reopen and respond to the ongoing public health restrictions in the recovery context. That work is largely complete. However, an option remains in place to re-form the group quickly, if required.

While standing down the Sector Recovery Group, the group was also keen to establish a dedicated cross-sector with similar membership as no such platform exists currently. Sector Recovery Group members felt that the valuable lessons and experiences of working together on matters of mutual interest would be beneficial to retain in another form. The new Childcare Sector Working Group will have its first meeting on 17 December to discuss terms of reference and membership.

## **13. ELC Statutory Duty and the Expansion**

On 8 July the Scottish Government and COSLA wrote to all Local Authorities with an update on the ELC statutory duty and the ELC Expansion. You can find a copy of that letter [here](#).

**Funding Follows the Child and the National Standard**

Quality is at the heart of the delivery of funded Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) entitlement. Interim Guidance on [the delivery of Funding Follows the Child and the National Standard from August 2020](#) was published on 30 July.

**Contact info: Euan Carmichael's Service Models Team at [ELCPartnershipForum@gov.scot](mailto:ELCPartnershipForum@gov.scot)**

### **Delivery Assurance Engagement**

Our delivery assurance team are continuing engagement with councils. Following reopening in August Councils continue to offer expanded hours where possible, with more than a third already delivering 1140 hours to all eligible families, and other councils moving to 1140 over the coming months. The team are working closely with councils to build on the data collected in August on ELC delivery and capacity in each local authority, to better understand the impact of COVID on programmes, and to inform the Joint Delivery Board's assessment, which will be made at their meeting on 4 December, of the appropriate date to reinstate the 1140 hours statutory duty. The Scottish Government will bring forward legislation in this parliamentary session to reinstate the 1140 duty.

The latest **Early Learning and Childcare Expansion Delivery Progress Report** was published on 11 November. The data from the Improvement Service, compiled in August, shows that the majority of children (more than 56,000) [in funded ELC](#) are now receiving the full 1,140 hours of funded ELC and more than 80% are receiving more than 600 hours, despite the statutory expansion being paused in April to give local authorities the flexibility to focus on responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Contact info: Hannah Keates' Delivery Assurance Team at [ELCDeliverySupport@gov.scot](mailto:ELCDeliverySupport@gov.scot)**

### **14. Primary 1 deferral and ELC eligibility – legislative change in this parliamentary session**

In October 2019, the Scottish Government committed to legislate in this parliamentary session, to ensure that all children who defer their primary 1 start are able to access funded ELC.

For now, there is no change in the law. All children who are still 4 years old at the start of the school year can be deferred and start primary one the following year. Children with a birthday in January or February who defer school entry are automatically entitled to another year of funded ELC.

For children with a birthday between the school commencement date in August and December, parents continue to have an automatic right to school deferral, but local authorities decide whether another year of funded ELC will be made available. Local authorities may wish to communicate locally about their policy to help parents and carers understand their options in the interim.

Partnership working is vital to the ELC expansion. Before we lay the necessary Scottish Statutory Instrument (SSI) in Parliament, we will work closely with COSLA and ADES to agree arrangements for implementation, including resource implications. These discussions are underway, and we are thankful to our colleagues for their support on this work, especially to such short timescales.

**If you have any questions on this work please contact Fran Iwanyckj at:**  
[Francesca.Iwanyckj@gov.scot](mailto:Francesca.Iwanyckj@gov.scot)

## 15. Analysis and Evidence

### Public Health Scotland - The impact of COVID-19 on children and young people in Scotland 2 to 4 year olds

Public Health Scotland (PHS) published the first of a series of evidence reviews on Wednesday 25 November:

<https://publichealthscotland.scot/downloads/the-impact-of-covid-19-on-children-and-young-people-2-4-year-olds>

This summarises previously published research on the **impact of COVID-19 on children and families**, in different age groups. This first report covers families with children aged 2-4 years. The purpose of the reports is to provide evidence to support planning and action to reduce or prevent negative outcomes; and promote positive futures for this generation of children and young people.

The report shows, while certain aspects of children's lives stayed the same or even improved, many deteriorated - including in ways that may increase existing inequalities. Public Health Scotland recommend planning ahead in the event of future lockdowns to reduce/prevent negative outcomes.

A new [PHS survey is out now ,aimed at parents and carers of 2-7 year olds.](#) Intended to gather more up to date evidence about the impact of the pandemic on children and families. We would be grateful if you could share locally via social media. The survey can be found on Twitter [here](#) and on the Public Health Scotland website [here](#).

The **COVID-19 Childcare Monitoring survey** continues and your participation in this is much appreciated. The survey should be completed by all childcare providers, although some local authorities have opted to provide data on behalf of their local authority run services (namely: Aberdeenshire, Argyll & Bute, Clackmannanshire, East Lothian, Edinburgh, Falkirk, Midlothian, Perth & Kinross, Stirling, West Lothian). A link to the survey is circulated by the Care Inspectorate each Tuesday as part of their daily update email and is also available [here](#). We are currently considering a break for the survey over the Christmas holidays and will notify you of this as part of the Care Inspectorate update email.

Please also ensure that you complete the **Care Inspectorate Covid-19 notification regarding staff absences** each Tuesday. This return should be completed by all childcare providers (excluding childminders).

Some of the information from the survey and information received from the Care Inspectorate on which settings are open is published and is available [here](#) as part of a dashboard on schools and childcare provision.

We are continuing to use this information to update Ministers and the Education Recovery Group weekly on the current situation in childcare services, so please understand the value of this information. The usefulness of this information will increase if we manage to improve the response rate to the survey, **so please do provide the information required, or encourage your members or colleagues to complete these returns.**

The **SEEMiS Early Years project** is continuing to progress, working towards the system delivery date of end of March 2021 and a roll out date of July 2021. Information continues to be added to the restricted local authority SEEMiS Early Years Knowledge Hub site, and more information on go live and training plans will be provided once dates have been finalised. A virtual event for local authority resource managers and ELC leads is being organised for 10 December to give them an update on progress and discuss local preparations required ahead of system roll out.



Work on this year's **ELC census** data continues, with the publication due for release on 15 December. Your involvement in this important data collection is much appreciated.

The **Scottish Study of Early Learning and Childcare (SSELC) Phase 3 report** is due to be published on 2 December. The focus of this report is on three-year-old children in their first term of funded ELC provision. This phase also followed up the same group of eligible two-year-old children from Phase 1 of the study after they had experienced a year of 600 hours of ELC.

The Scottish Government **web pages** on ELC have been updated and are available [here](#). Any comments or questions please let us know.

## **16. Workforce Support**

### **Induction Resource Review**

The National Induction resource for ELC has been refreshed to reflect the most recent updates in policy and best practice, including changes relating to COVID-19. With thanks to our partners for their contributions, the refreshed content offers support to newly employed ELC staff during the initial months of their induction period, providing a range of supporting information and advice including links to leading partner's information, a tool to support reflective practice, and resources for continued learning and progression opportunities.

The Induction resource is promoted via our Twitter pages with a dedicated video message from Maree Todd, Minister for Children and Young People, and quotes from members of the ELC workforce who have benefitted from the resource:

<https://twitter.com/ELCScotGov/status/1313395601443352581>

It is now accessible in both PDF and HTML versions from our website:  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/early-learning-childcare-national-induction-resource/>

**If you have any questions on this work please contact Sarah Guy at: [Sarah.Guy@gov.scot](mailto:Sarah.Guy@gov.scot)**

### **Free continued professional learning (CPL)**

Our free online CPL module '*Understanding the social factors which may impact on children's outcomes in the early years*' continues to be available for professionals interested in how a range of social factors, relationships and environments can impact children's early brain development, health, wellbeing, and behaviour. It also considers the importance of relationships and attachment-led practice, and how practitioners can build on the unique assets and strengths of each family to further support the child. This may be of particular interest due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. Further work is also underway to develop modules focusing on the curriculum and transitions.

Full details about our suite of CPL modules and access to the courses is available from our website:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/training-modules-for-all-etc-practitioners/>

**If you have any questions on this work please contact Sarah Guy at: [Sarah.Guy@gov.scot](mailto:Sarah.Guy@gov.scot)**

## Wellbeing Support for Childcare Staff

To support the wellbeing of the childcare workforce during these challenging times, the ELC Directorate has worked with Early Years Scotland to develop a new **#TeamELC Wellbeing Hub** which launched on 7 July. The Hub hosts a wealth of information and practical advice on managing wellbeing and features a function which allows practitioners and childminders to be connected with others in the sector. Alongside the website, a series of free online wellbeing events took place throughout July. Feedback from the events has been hugely positive with many finding the practical tips on how to manage personal wellbeing, really useful. So much so that a further series of wellbeing events has now been scheduled. You can book a place on one of those via this link: <https://teamelcwellbeinghub.org/events>

One of the previous sessions was recorded and has been uploaded to the website, so staff can access the session at a time that suits them. We would encourage everyone to take some time to visit the site and look after themselves and each other at this difficult time. <https://teamelcwellbeinghub.org/>

We would also welcome good practice examples from local partners showcasing measures that have been put in place to support the wellbeing and professional learning of staff during these challenging times.

**If you have any questions on this work please contact Scott Sutherland at:**

[Scott.Sutherland@gov.scot](mailto:Scott.Sutherland@gov.scot)

## Education Scotland

Education Scotland is working remotely with practitioners across Scotland to support recovery. Many opportunities are being offered at local level, in collaboration with local authorities, and details of these are being shared through targeted communication.

Links to national webinars and 'blethers' can be found on the [National Improvement Hub](#). Over the next few months these include a strong focus on outdoor learning and using digital resources to support both communication and learning.

Support for using Realising the Ambition during recovery is also available on the [National Improvement Hub](#). In early December this will be complemented by a webinar to help practitioners gain a deeper and shared understanding of the key messages contained in Realising the Ambition: Being Me. This professional learning session is aimed at all practitioners and leaders who support children in their early years - in local authority, private, voluntary and independent sector ELC settings (including childminders) and schools. This session will be repeated on a number of occasions and at different times. Details can be found [here](#).

In addition to Education Scotland's live webinars and 'blethers', a number of sessions have been recorded and are available to watch on demand.

New opportunities are continually being added in response to practitioner demand, so if you are looking for professional learning please check for [updates](#).

**If you have any questions on this work please contact Sian Neil at:**

[Sian.Neil@educationscotland.gov.scot](mailto:Sian.Neil@educationscotland.gov.scot)

## **17. Outdoor Learning**

### **National Conversation and Improvement Practicum**

On 17 November, the Scottish Government ran an online National Conversation event to provide an overview of, and promote, the Outdoor Learning Improvement Practicum. Over 400 practitioners noted their interest in the event, with places allocated to just under 200. A summary of the events discussions will be shared shortly from colleagues at the Children and Young People's Improvement Collaborative (CYPIC).

The Improvement Practicum, beginning February 2021, will coach teams in the use of improvement methodology to support quality development in aspects of their outdoor ELC practice. Applications are now open and teams are invited to submit notes of interest for their participation to [cypic@gov.scot](mailto:cypic@gov.scot) by 9 December 2020.

### **Outdoor Play Marketing Campaign**

We have commissioned a marketing campaign with colleagues from across Scottish Government to encourage children and families to play outdoors over the winter months. The campaign, which is now live, features videos and activity ideas to support parents with all-weather play. The campaign promotes outdoor experiences, not only as a restriction compliant way for children to be with their friends, but as a fun activity for the whole family.

Activity cards and information can be found at: <https://www.parentclub.scot/articles/play-outdoors>

The videos are currently being shared on social media:

<https://twitter.com/parentclubscot/status/1327237213814464514?s=20>

### **Inspiring Scotland: Outdoor ELC videos**

The Scottish Government grant funded Inspiring Scotland to support the development and promotion of outdoor play as a key component of the early learning and childcare (ELC) expansion. As part of this work, films were commissioned to capture and showcase the experience of outdoor play in ELC from the perspective of the parent, child and practitioner.

We are pleased to share these with you below:

- Outdoor ELC for Parents; why do parents choose an outdoor nursery experience for their child?: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b01cgoM-RKA&feature=youtu.be>
- Outdoor ELC for Children: What do children think of their outdoor nursery?: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KkpEajokuII>
- Outdoor ELC for Practitioners: What's it like working in a fully outdoor nursery?: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FmLrG5DuZwE>

### **Virtual Nature School Programme**

The Virtual Nature School was funded £159,000 by Scottish Government to support children and families with outdoor play during the COVID-19 pandemic. The work trained ELC practitioners from across the sector in nature pedagogy, providing them with guidance and resources to facilitate child led outdoor play sessions.

The Virtual Nature School came to the end of its 16 week programme on 25 September having trained over 1,000 practitioners from across the ELC sector and supported over 40,000 children. The full programme of session videos are available for general use on the [Virtual Nature School YouTube channel](#).

**If you have any questions on this section, please contact Sophie Finlayson at [sophie.finalyson@gov.scot](mailto:sophie.finalyson@gov.scot)**

## **18. Organised activities for children**

On 24 September 2020 the Scottish Government released [guidance](#) for organised unregulated activities and services provided indoors and outdoors for children and young people, babies and toddlers. This includes voluntary, third sector, parent or peer led or unregulated providers delivering a service or activity directly to children under 18. The guidance covers training, working environment, risk assessments, infection prevention and control, and includes advice about maximum numbers of adults and children involved.

The guidance was updated on 12 November to include maximum numbers and organised activities permitted at each level in line with the [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Scotland's Strategic Framework](#). This includes advice that no indoor organised children's activities are permitted in areas at Level 4.

This guidance will continue be updated in line with ongoing public health advice.

**If you have any questions about the organised activities for children, please contact [COVID-19MaternityandChildHealth@gov.scot](mailto:COVID-19MaternityandChildHealth@gov.scot)**

## **19. Book Week Scotland**

16 – 22 November marked Book Week Scotland. It is an annual celebration of books and reading that takes place across the country. During Book Week, people of all ages and walks of life come together in libraries, schools, community venues and workplaces to share and enjoy books and reading. They are joined in this celebration by Scotland's authors, poets, playwrights, storytellers and illustrators to bring a packed programme of events and projects to life.

Find highlights, projects and stories from Book Week Scotland here:  
<https://www.scottishbooktrust.com/book-week-scotland>

## **20. Scottish Government COVID-19 Children, Young People and Families Evidence Summary**

A summary of Scottish and UK evidence on the impact of COVID-19 on the wellbeing of children and young people was published [here](#) on 24 November. The briefing summarises the current evidence from Scotland and the UK on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the wellbeing of children, young people and families, including those with vulnerabilities and those experiencing disadvantage or discrimination.

Over the last month, there has been a tightening of restrictions in response to a rise in COVID-19 cases and hospital admissions. At the same time, many children and young people are adjusting to changes in school and childcare settings. This briefing is the fourth in a series of high-level evidence summaries on the impact of COVID-19 on the wellbeing of children and families in Scotland, drawing

on wider UK research where appropriate. As with previous briefings, the scope is fairly broad to cover a wide range of policy interests.

This month, there are some new Scottish studies relating to particular groups of children and young people which will be of interest, including: children and families living in poverty; black and minority ethnic (BME) young people; and families impacted by disability.

<b>NOVEMBER 2020</b>			
26 November	Virtual support session for Childminders	Online interactive support session for Childminders	
<b>DECEMBER 2020</b>			
2 December	Publication of the Scottish Study of Early Learning and Childcare Phase 3 report	Findings from the third phase of the Scottish Study of Early Learning and Childcare (SSELC), a research project established to evaluate the expansion of early learning and childcare (ELC) in Scotland.	<a href="https://www.gov.scot/publications">https://www.gov.scot/publications</a>
2 December	Virtual support session for Nursery Heads	Online interactive support session for Nursery Heads	
4 December	ELC Joint Delivery Board	The Early Learning and Childcare Joint Delivery Board is jointly chaired by Maree Todd MSP, Minister for Children and Young People, and Councillor Stephen McCabe, COSLA Spokesperson for Children and Young People. The purpose of the group is to provide overall governance of the ELC expansion programme, to manage and monitor progress against the key milestone plan to ensure that the Scottish and local Government deliver the ELC expansion on time and within budget.	<a href="https://www.gov.scot/groups/early-learning-and-childcare-joint-delivery-board/">https://www.gov.scot/groups/early-learning-and-childcare-joint-delivery-board/</a>
9 December	Virtual support session for Childminders	Online interactive support session for Childminders	
<b>APRIL 2021</b>			
24 April	SCMA Annual Conference	Unfortunately due to COVID-19 the SCMA Conference scheduled for this year has been postponed until April 2021. The theme for the conference will be “Making a Difference,” with a particular focus on wellbeing and full details can be found in the link attached.	<a href="https://www.childminding.org/news/scma-annual-conference-2020-important-update">https://www.childminding.org/news/scma-annual-conference-2020-important-update</a>

## MAY 2021

15 May	EYS Annual Conference	Unfortunately due to COVID-19 the EYS annual Conference scheduled for this year has been postponed until May 2021.	<a href="https://earlyyearsscotland.org/about-us/eys-annual-conference">https://earlyyearsscotland.org/about-us/eys-annual-conference</a>
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## Annex B – Publications

<b>Date Published</b>	<b>Document Link</b>
25/11/2020	<a href="#">The impact of COVID-19 on children and young people - 2-4 year olds</a>
24/11/2020	<a href="#">Coronavirus (COVID-19): impact on children, young people and families - evidence summary October 2020</a>
18/11/2020	<a href="#">Coronavirus (COVID-19): Advisory Sub-Group on Education and Children's Issues - evidence on children, schools, early learning and childcare settings and transmission from COVID-19 - summary report</a>
30/10/2020	<a href="#">Coronavirus (COVID19) Early Learning and Childcare Services</a>
30/10/2020	<a href="#">Coronavirus (COVID 19) Childminder Services Guidance</a>
30/10/2020	<a href="#">Coronavirus (COVID 19) School Age Childcare Services Guidance</a>
24/10/2020	<a href="#">Halloween and Bonfire Night - Advice on safe and enjoyable celebrations</a>
23/10/2020	<a href="#">Scotland's strategic framework</a>
24/09/2020	<a href="#">Coronavirus (COVID-19): organised activities for children</a>
11/09/2020	<a href="#">Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance on preparing for the start of the new school term in August 2020 - version 3</a>
24/08/2020	<a href="#">Coronavirus (COVID-19): public health measures at borders (international travel)</a>
23/08/2020	<a href="#">Coronavirus (COVID-19): local advice and measures</a>
21/08/2020	<a href="#">Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance on reopening early learning and childcare services - frequently asked questions</a>
21/08/2020	<a href="#">Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance on re-opening school age childcare services - frequently asked questions</a>
30/07/2020	<a href="#">Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance on reopening early learning and childcare services</a>
30/07/2020	<a href="#">Coronavirus (COVID-19): childminding services guidance</a>
30/07/2020	<a href="#">Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance on reopening school age childcare services</a>
30/07/2020	<a href="#">Coronavirus (COVID-19): fully outdoor childcare providers guidance</a>
30/07/2020	<a href="#">Coronavirus (COVID-19): Advisory Sub-Group on Education and Children's Issues – advisory note on physical distancing in early learning and childcare settings (ELC)</a>
30/07/2020	<a href="#">Funding follows the child and the national standard for early learning and childcare providers: interim guidance</a>
03/07/2020	<a href="#">Coronavirus (COVID-19) Phase 3: guidance on reopening school aged childcare services</a>
24/06/2020	<a href="#">Further route map detail announced</a>
15/06/2020	<a href="#">Coronavirus (COVID-19) Phase 3: guidance on reopening early learning and childcare services</a>
01/06/2020	<a href="#">Coronavirus (COVID-19): fully outdoor childcare providers guidance</a>
01/06/2020	<a href="#">Coronavirus (COVID-19): childminder services guidance</a>
26/05/2020	<a href="#">Coronavirus (COVID-19): schools, early learning and childcare settings - scientific evidence</a>
21/05/2020	<a href="#">Coronavirus (COVID-19): strategic framework for reopening schools, early learning and childcare provision</a>
15/05/2020	<a href="#">Coronavirus (COVID-19): physical distancing in education and childcare settings</a>
31/03/2020	<a href="#">Joint statement issued by Ms Todd and Cllr McCabe on the 1140 hours revocation</a>
31/03/2020	<a href="#">Social distancing in education and childcare settings guidance</a>



30/03/2020	<a href="#">Childcare providers: closure information</a>
30/03/2020	<a href="#">Information for private and third sector childcare providers about business support</a>
30/03/2020	<a href="#">Information for Childminders about business and financial support</a>
30/03/2020	<a href="#">Childcare closures and emergency provision</a>
24/03/2020	<a href="#">Implementing social distancing in education and childcare settings</a>
24/03/2020	<a href="#">School and ELC closures - guidance for key workers</a>
20/03/2020	<a href="#">Guidance on critical childcare and learning provision for key workers</a>