

## **Scottish Government Early Learning and Childcare COVID-19 Update** **No. 7 – 30 September 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

Alison Cumming

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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;
- [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. Phase 3 – Easing of lockdown in Scotland**

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](#).

Further measures to protect the population from the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) have been announced by the First Minister [here](#) on 22 September as Scotland faces an upsurge in cases. The new restrictions focus on no household visits and a 10 pm closing time for all hospitality settings.

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said that this action is necessary in order to prevent a resurgence in community transmission of the virus and the potential for a rapid return to the pressures the NHS experienced earlier in the year.

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

All registered childcare services have been able to reopen from 15 July as part of Phase 3 of Scotland's recovery from the coronavirus crisis and regulated childcare provision can continue in line with published guidance for the sector below while public health measures remain in place.

The suite of guidance documents for the childcare sector, which is updated periodically, can be found here –

- [Guidance](#) for early learning and childcare services
- [Guidance](#) for childminding services
- [Guidance](#) for out of school care services
- [Guidance](#) for fully outdoor childcare services

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

We have added a frequently asked questions section for both the [re-opening of early learning and childcare settings](#) and the [re-opening of school ages childcare settings guidance](#) pages. We have included some of the most asked questions received in relation to the 30 July [refreshed guidance](#) for early learning and childcare (ELC) providers and the 30 July [refreshed guidance](#) on the reopening of school aged childcare in the local authority, private and third sectors to support a safe reopening of these settings which took effect from 10 August.

We hope that this will support providers in utilising the guidance, and assist parents who may have queries relating to how settings will operate as they reopen. We continue to engage with the early learning and childcare sector and school aged childcare sector and will be issuing updated guidance in early October to provide clarification on some points.

### **3. Common cold and COVID-19 symptoms**

Scotland's national clinical director Professor Jason Leitch wrote advice to all parents/carers about common cold and COVID-19 symptoms [here](#).

This includes advice about when to get a Covid test, and also clarity that if a child does not have symptoms of COVID-19 but has other cold-like symptoms, such as a runny nose, they do not need to be tested and they and or to self-isolate. Parents and carers can be directed to [www.parentclub.scot](http://www.parentclub.scot) or to [www.nhsinform.scot](http://www.nhsinform.scot) for information.

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

We wrote to all local authorities and childcare providers on Monday 24 August to highlight the change on 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. Assessing the impact of re-opening childcare as part of COVID-19 recovery in Scotland**

An assessment of a range of impacts of re-opening childcare as part of COVID-19 recovery on children, families and the childcare workforce is published on Wednesday 30 September. It will be accessible from that date here: <https://www.gov.scot/isbn/9781800041042>.

**For further information on this document, including providing feedback, please contact [ELCProgrammeOffice@gov.scot](mailto:ELCProgrammeOffice@gov.scot)**

## **7. Early Learning & Childcare (ELC) Inclusion Fund Open for Applications**

The ELC Inclusion Fund will distribute up to £2 million over four years (2018-2021) to selected registered ELC providers in Scotland, to support children with additional support needs (ASN) to access their funded ELC entitlement and ensure that staff working in ELC settings receive appropriate training to help them meet the needs of these children. The fund is funded by the Scottish Government and managed by Children in Scotland.

The fifth round of the Early Learning & Childcare Inclusion Fund opened on 22 September. ELC settings can apply for funding for training, resources, equipment and adaptations to support children with ASN. We know that the COVID-19 pandemic, and ELC closures, may have had an impact on some children's existing additional support needs and may have resulted in the emergence of new support needs in other children. The ELC Inclusion Fund can be used to support these.

For further information about how to apply please visit the [Children in Scotland](https://www.childreninScotland.org.uk) website or email [inclusionfund@childreninScotland.org.uk](mailto:inclusionfund@childreninScotland.org.uk).

**If you have any questions on this, please contact Hallé Brown at [halle.brown@gov.scot](mailto:halle.brown@gov.scot)**

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

The Transitional Support Fund will 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 provides one-off grants to eligible settings. Grant amounts vary according to the number of Care Inspectorate registered places in your setting

To be eligible for the Fund you need to be registered with the Care Inspectorate as:

- a 'day care of children' service; and
- a 'Private' or 'Voluntary or Not For Profit' service.

This includes private, voluntary and not for profit settings delivering out of school care; childcare settings in independent schools; and outdoor day care of childcare settings. You will also need to confirm that your setting had reopened by Monday 7 September.

The Fund has opened for applications on 3 September. **The last date for submitting a grant application is Friday 9 October.**

Applications are made through [Bisaccount](#). Using this system allows for a standard application form and consistent national application process. This will make the application process as straightforward as possible. In particular, it will minimise the burden on providers who will be applying for multiple settings/services across different local authorities. More information is provided on the Fund application site. The local authority in which the setting/service you are applying for is located will then process your application.

Please note that applicants should receive a confirmation email, which includes an application reference number, when their application has been successfully logged onto the system. We have been made aware that a small number of providers have indicated that they were unsure if their application been successfully logged in the system. If you are in this situation, could you please provide the following information to the ELC Partnership Forum mailbox ([ELCPartnershipForum@gov.scot](mailto:ELCPartnershipForum@gov.scot)) and we will follow-up: (1) the email address that you entered on your application form and (2) the Care Inspectorate registration number(s) (CS Number) for the setting(s)/service(s) for which an application(s) is/are being made.

If you experience any general technical difficulties we would be grateful if queries could be logged with the Improvement Service Helpdesk at <https://bisaccount.scot/help>, who will be able to investigate and help.

Further information on the Transitional Support Fund is available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-support-to-childcare-sector/pages/transitional-support-fund-for-childcare-providers/>.

**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 is now providing 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 struggled to access support through other routes.

The Scottish Government is currently working with the SCMA regarding the approach to administering the extended Fund. More information on the Fund will be provided on the [SCMA web site](#).

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

## **10. 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](#)

### ***Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme***

**The Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, which is a UK Government Scheme, will operate until October.** From August there will be changes to the level of reimbursement through HMRC for furloughing costs for the Scheme, with employers contributing starting to contribute to these costs. The level of this employer contribution will increase over the period from August to October. Further information is available at our [information page for private and third sector childcare providers about business support](#).

### ***Job Support Scheme***

On 24 September the UK Government announced that the Job Support Scheme will be introduced from 1 November 2020. Under the scheme, which will run for 6 months, the UK Government will contribute towards the wages of employees who are working fewer than normal hours due to decreased demand.

In order to receive support employees must be working at least 33% of their usual hours. The company will continue to pay its employee for time worked. For the hours not worked, the government and the employer will each pay one third of their equivalent salary. The Government contribution will be capped at £697.92 per month.

This means employees who can only go back to work on lower hours than usual will still be paid two thirds of their pay for those hours they can't work (up to the cap).

More information on the Job Support Scheme can be found at:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/job-support-scheme>.

### ***Self-employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS)***

The UK Government announced on 29 May that the scheme is being extended. Those who are eligible will be able to claim for a second and final grant from 17 August 2020. If you're eligible, the second and final grant will be a taxable grant worth 70% of your average monthly trading profits, paid out in a single instalment covering a further 3 months' worth of profits, and capped at £6,570 in total. You do not need to have claimed the first grant to receive the second grant. **Eligible businesses must make their claim for the second grant by 19 October 2020.** More information can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-a-grant-through-the-self-employment-income-support-scheme>.

The UK Government announced on 24 September that the Scheme is being [extended](#). The extension will provide two grants and will last for six months from November 2020 to April 2021. The first grant will cover a three-month period from the start of November until the end of January. It will cover 20 per cent of average monthly trading profits, paid out in a single instalment covering 3 months' worth of profits, and capped at £1,875 in total.

You can find out more information on the SEISS Grant Extension at:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/self-employment-income-support-scheme-seiss-grant-extension>.

**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.

### **11. COVID-19 Risk Assessment Guidance for Employers**

Guidance has been produced by the Scottish Government's Chief Medical Officer Directorate, aimed at employers across all industries, to support staff and line managers to understand and carry out effective risk assessments in light of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. The guidance can be accessed here - <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-individual-risk-assessment-for-the-workplace/>

### **12. 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. Currently the team are working closely with councils to build on the data collected in August on ELC delivery and capacity in each local authority in August 2020, to better understand the impact of COVID on programmes, and to inform the Joint Delivery Board's assessment of the appropriate date to reinstate the 1140 hours statutory duty.

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

## **13. Analysis and Evidence**

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). The survey now takes place on Tuesday each week. A link to the survey is circulated by the Care Inspectorate each week as part of their daily update email and is also available [here](#).

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 has started to be published and is available [here](#) as part of a dashboard on schools and childcare provision. We will continue to add to this dashboard, adding the information on child attendance and Covid-19 related absences once we have been collecting this data for a few weeks.

The full range of data collected is currently already included in ministerial briefings and updates to the Education Recovery Group advising on actions to take throughout the pandemic, 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 and a roll out date of July 2021 has been agreed. More information on go live and training plans will be provided once dates have been finalised. The system is due to be built by end of March 2021, but following consultation with the Early Years Working Group and SEEMiS Governance, who took into consideration operational priorities and technical issues related to two proposed go live dates, April and July 2021, it was decided by the Project Board that July was a more suitable date.

The **Scottish Household Survey** asks people with children aged 2 to 5 years old who are not yet at school about use of childcare. The report detailing the finding of the survey in 2019 has just been published and is available [here](#), along with information for the [other topics](#) covered in the survey.

The **ELC census week** for this year was w/c 14 September. Thank you for all involved in providing data for this important collection, especially when we know you are all dealing with added pressures and difficulties due to the pandemic.

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

[Parent Club](#) continues to be updated regularly to give parents and carers updated information relating to Covid 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. We

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

A 'back to school/ELC' partnerships toolkit has been co-created with a range of key partners including local authorities and representative bodies, to ensure other organisations keen to support parents and carers right now have the right messaging and helpful assets (social, newsletter copy, text message copy etc.) to provide clear and consistent reassurance. This includes translated and BSL materials. If you have not received this and would like to, please get in touch.

The National Parent Forum of Scotland have also produced a [guide for parents and carers](#) about the return to school and ELC.

As of 26 October, the families.scot website will no longer be supported. We are working with local authorities that use this, to ensure they have alternative channels for communicating with families.

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.

## **15. 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.

The ELC Directorate had to pause their work on this commitment due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, but work on this has now resumed, led by the ELC Access and Parental Communication Team.

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 Iwanyckyj at:**  
[Francesca.Iwanyckyj@gov.scot](mailto:Francesca.Iwanyckyj@gov.scot)



## 16. Workforce Support

### Induction Resource Review

The National Induction resource for ELC is currently undergoing review to reflect changes to the sector as a result of the pandemic, and developments in practice support since the resource was first published. The refreshed resource will highlight and signpost to key sources of information and support for those starting their career in ELC. A revised version of the resource will be available shortly, and we will communicate out to the sector once it goes live.

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. 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-elc-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 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 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.

One of those 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)

## 17. Outdoor Learning: 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 15,000 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, please contact Sophie Finlayson at [sophie.finalyson@gov.scot](mailto:sophie.finalyson@gov.scot)**

## **18. Access to Childcare Fund: Successful projects announced**

Fifteen childcare providers from across Scotland have been announced as the successful applicants to the [Access to Childcare Fund](#).

The fund, launched in July, is one feature of the Scottish Government's Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan which focuses on tackling and reducing levels of child poverty in Scotland. It recognises that the cost and availability of school age childcare round about the school day and during the holidays is often prohibitive for low income families and can limit opportunities for parents to work, train and learn. The Fund aims to make childcare more accessible and affordable, particularly for children and families most affected by low incomes – unlocking improvements for both parents and their children.

The organisations will be supported by a total of £3 million by March 2022, and have committed to testing a range of approaches to increasing the availability and accessibility of their services and working together to share their learning across the range of children's services.

The successful organisations are:

[Action for Children](#)

[Clyde Gateway](#)

[Flexible Childcare Services Scotland](#) (funded in two locations)

[Fuse Youth Café Shettleston](#)

[Hame fae Hame Shetland](#)

[Hope Amplified](#)

[The Indigo Childcare Group](#)

[Inverclyde Council](#)

[Muirhouse Millennium Centre](#)

[St Mirin's Out Of School Club](#)

[SHIP Perth](#)

[Stepping Stones for Families](#)

[supERkids](#)

[The Wee Childcare Company](#)

The Access to Childcare Fund is funded by the Scottish Government and managed by Children in Scotland.

**If you have any questions about the Access to Childcare Fund, please contact Christian Barry at [christian.barry@gov.scot](mailto:christian.barry@gov.scot).**

## **19. Organised activities for children**

On 24 September 2020 the Scottish Government released [guidance](#) for the safe running of organised activities for children and young people. The guidance covers training, working environment, risk assessments, infection prevention and control, communication, next steps and questions and answers.

It is now possible for businesses and organisations to open premises and resume services where it is appropriate to do so. As announced on 20 August, indoor activities for children and young people (unregulated) could begin from Monday 31 August where guidance has been produced and can be adhered to.

The guidance is for unregulated activities and services provided indoors and outdoors for children and young people, including babies and toddlers, that are voluntary, 3rd sector, parent or peer led or unregulated providers delivering a service or activity directly to children under 18. The guidance is to assist those delivering supervised activities and services for children and young people, babies and toddlers, including those where parents remain present during the activity, and where that service or activity is unregulated, to resume indoor and outdoor face-to-face activities, where it is appropriate to do so.

The guidance emphasises the importance of undertaking robust and regular risk assessments with full input from trade unions or workforce representatives, and to keep all risk mitigation measures under regular review so that workplaces continue to feel, and be, as safe as possible. Easing restrictions will not mean returning to how things were before the virus. Physical distancing, hand hygiene, and risk reducing measures will be essential in each area to ensure public and workforce confidence and reassure service users. The aim of this guidance is to provide clarity on what is expected with regard to practical approaches to reopening of activities, groups, clubs and services for children and young people, babies and toddlers, including their parents where they attend, that is unregulated and not covered specifically by any other sector guidance.

It is intended to assist service providers, staff and volunteers, and their users, as they reopen their premises and resume face-to-face contact securely and in line with national and local guidance.

This is provisional guidance that extends until further notice, but will be updated in line with ongoing public health advice. It sets out both our current advice and guidance for indoor activities and services provided for children and young people, which is not covered by any other sector guidance, as well as beginning to develop a route-map towards restarting activities within overarching public health considerations.

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

<b>OCTOBER 2020</b>			
9 October	Transitional Support Fund closing date	The Transitional Support Fund will help childcare 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 will provide one-off grants to eligible settings. Grant amounts vary according to the number of Care Inspectorate registered places in your setting. The Fund opens 3 September for applications and the last date for submitting a grant application will be Friday 9 October.	<a href="https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-support-to-childcare-sector/pages/transitional-support-fund-for-childcare-providers/">https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-support-to-childcare-sector/pages/transitional-support-fund-for-childcare-providers/</a>
30 October	ELC Inclusion Fund closing date	The ELC Inclusion Fund provides funding to ELC settings to support children with additional support needs (ASN) in Scotland access their funded ELC entitlement. It funds staff working in ELC settings to receive appropriate training and fund resources, equipment and adaptations. The ELC Inclusion Fund is funded by the Scottish Government and managed by Children in Scotland and the deadline is 5pm on Friday 30 October.	<a href="https://childreninscotland.org.uk/our-work/services/early-learning-childcare-inclusion-fund/">https://childreninscotland.org.uk/our-work/services/early-learning-childcare-inclusion-fund/</a>
<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>
<b>MAY 2021</b>			
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>

## Annex B – Publications

<b>Date Published</b>	<b>Document Link</b>
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>