

Scottish Government Early Learning and Childcare COVID-19 Update

No. 18 – September 2021

Introduction from Alison Cumming, Director for Early Learning and Childcare

Hello and welcome to our September update.

Whilst we take nothing for granted, there are some promising early signs that we are past the recent peak of Covid-19 cases in Scotland. The total number of confirmed cases among staff and children in registered childcare settings dropped quite substantially in the latest week for which we have data (the week ending 19 September). We also saw a sharp decrease in the number of settings reporting confirmed cases, which reflects a drop in daily positive cases in wider society in recent weeks.

This is good news and what's even more reassuring is that all the evidence continues to tell us that childcare settings are low risk environments when the mitigations set out in the guidance are put in place. We will continue to keep this data under review and to be guided by the Advisory Sub-Group about the most appropriate steps to take, particularly as we plan for winter. In the meantime, please do continue to ensure that your settings and teams adhere to the public health guidance, which has been subject to minor updates this month, and keep promoting the importance and benefits of the Covid vaccination programme.

I'd also like to take the opportunity to highlight the continuation of the [Team ELC Wellbeing Hub](#), hosted by Early Years Scotland, which contains practical advice and techniques to help personal wellbeing, as well as ideas to enhance the collective wellbeing of staff in their workplace. I know folk have found these hugely beneficial already so if you've not checked out the Hub yet, now is the time to do so. Further free webinars have been running throughout September, with the final session taking place on [Friday 1 October](#). If you haven't been able to attend any of the online events, you'll be able to access a recording online soon.

Please do also take the opportunity to participate in one of the upcoming webinars organised by Professor Ken Muir's Expert Panel so you can have your say on shaping the future of national bodies supporting education in Scotland. It's really important that the voice of the ELC sector is heard loud and clear in this process so please take the opportunity to share your views.

Best wishes

Alison

[Find previous editions of the ELC Covid-19 update here.](#)

Contents

1. Covid-19 Guidance	3
2. Programme for Government: Wraparound Childcare	4
3. Workforce and Professional Learning	4
3.1 National Transition Training Fund Childcare Project	4
3.2 Wellbeing Support for Workforce	4
4. Workforce Strategy	5
5. Financial Sustainability Health Check	5
6. Reform of Education Scotland and the Scottish Qualifications Authority	6
6.1 Invitation to attend WEBINAR session with Professor Ken Muir	6
6.2 Public consultation	7
7. Education Scotland	7
7.1 Scottish Learning Festival	7
8. Care Inspectorate	8
8.1 Care Inspectorate communication on children leaving settings unsupervised	8
9. Targeted Childcare and Family Wellbeing	8
9.1 Funded early learning and childcare for two year olds: Eligibility due to Parents' Receipt of Working Tax Credits or Universal Credit – New Income Threshold	8
9.2 One and two Year Olds	9
9.3 Creative Bravery Festival 2021	9
10. Care Inspectorate ELC Quality Improvement	9
10.1 Quality Improvement Support - Bitesize 'Quick Wins'	9
10.2 Early Learning & Childcare (ELC) Inclusion Fund Open for Applications	10
10.3 Continued food payments for children unable to attend ELC due to COVID-19 closures	10
11. SEEMiS Early Years	11
12. ELC analysis	11
13. Annex A – Forward Look Calendar	13
12. Annex B – Publications	15

1. Covid-19 Guidance

The suite of childcare guidance has been updated this month to provide more detailed advice on what action should be taken when a child or member of staff tests positive. It includes a link to a [new flowchart](#) that summarises these actions and a link to [new 'Warn and Inform' letters](#) (one for parents/carers and one for staff) that replaces the 'Warn and Inform' Information sheet and should be issued when a setting is informed of a positive case. The guidance also provides a link to [the full list of local authority contacts](#) that settings can use to help access CO2 monitors.

We are aware that the current policy on close contacts aged under five is causing some concern for registered childcare providers. The policy means that, provided they show no symptoms, children aged under five who are close contacts of a positive case can continue to attend childcare settings without being required to return a negative PCR test. The [guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection](#) (on NHS Inform) states that children under five years who are close contacts are **encouraged but not required to take a PCR test**. We understand that some childcare providers have expressed particular concern about children attending when there is a positive case within the child's household.

In response to concerns about the current policy on close contacts aged under five, we asked the Advisory Sub-Group on Education and Children's Issues to review the policy through a 'four harms' lens when it met on 21 September.

In discussion, the Sub-Group emphasised that an important part of the rationale for the current self-isolation policy includes evidence of the protection that the vaccination gives to adults who have received both doses of the vaccine, the low risk associated with very young children contracting and transmitting COVID-19 within childcare settings and the impact of repeated testing on this age group. For these reasons, the Sub-Group members agreed to maintain the current advice on close contacts aged under five in childcare settings. The Group also agreed to explore further the latest evidence on transmission in close contacts under five at its next meeting as part of its ongoing remit to keep evidence on the state of the pandemic under review.

We updated the sector on the outcome of the Sub-Group's discussion in a provider notice that was issued this week.

Finally, on the subject of our COVID guidance, we are planning another **Public Health Blether** for Early Learning and Childcare Providers on the evening of 6 October. This session will provide the sector with the opportunity to engage with clinicians and public health experts on the current COVID-19 risk mitigations. There will be a particular focus on vaccination and how it's helping to reduce the health harms associated with COVID. For those with any concerns about vaccine safety, this is an opportunity to put questions directly to an expert panel, including Professor Jason Leitch, National Clinical Director and Dr Syed Ahmed, Senior Medical Officer. There will also be an up-date on the recent review, by the Advisory Sub-Group on Education and Children's Issues, of the policy on close contacts aged under 5. However, we would welcome questions in advance on any aspect of the current COVID guidance for the sector.

Details on how to register for the Blether can be found [here](#) on the Education Scotland website and will be shared via our Twitter account.

Contact: Debbie Silver at debbie.silver@gov.scot

2. Programme for Government: Wraparound Childcare

At the beginning of September, Scottish Government published our [Programme for Government 2021-22](#). In the PfG, we've committed to build a system of wraparound school age childcare by the end of this Parliament.

This means building a system to provide care before and after school, all year round, which will support parents – particularly on low incomes – to have secure and stable employment. Those on the lowest incomes will pay nothing, and others will make fair and affordable contributions. This offer will also reduce inequalities in access to a range of activities round about the school day, particularly for those children who may benefit most.

To inform policy development, over this year, we will establish a diverse and inclusive public panel made up of parents and carers and children and young people, and run a series of workshops to make sure that their experience underpins our system design. We will also engage with expert stakeholders such as providers of school age childcare, children's activities and wider organisations with an interest in supporting children and families.

We will also continue to support our 15 Access to Childcare Fund and 3 additional pilot projects which are currently testing innovative models of school age childcare for families most at risk of poverty. These projects are funded until March 2022 and we'll evaluate the impact these projects have had for the children and families accessing those services by September 2022.

The evidence and information we gather from the Public Panel and the pilots will be brought together as we draft a 5 year delivery plan for the commitment, to be published by the end of August 2022. This will set out the phasing and timescales for delivery of the commitment over the course of this Parliamentary term.

Contact: If you'd like to hear more about any of this planned work, please contact Gillian Munro or one of the School Age Childcare team at outofschoolcare@gov.scot.

3. Workforce and Professional Learning

3.1 National Transition Training Fund Childcare Project

The National Transition Training Fund (NTTF) was created to support people who have lost their jobs or are at risk of redundancy as a result of the pandemic. The NTTF Childcare Fund, expected to roll out from Autumn 2021, will offer support for people looking to transition into the childcare sector. It will raise awareness of the training and employment opportunities in the sector and will be targeted at over 25s who have been made redundant, or face the threat of redundancy and returners to the labour market. Skills Development Scotland intends to manage this delivery through its Employability Fund contracts.

Contact: Kathryn Chisholm at kathryn.chisholm@gov.scot

3.2 Wellbeing Support for Workforce

Further wellbeing webinars for childcare professionals are now running, to provide all colleagues with practical advice and techniques to manage their personal wellbeing, as well as ideas for colleagues to consider the collective wellbeing of staff in their workplace. Following up on the hugely popular wellbeing events offered last year, Early Years Scotland has worked with the Scottish Government to develop a further wellbeing session.

This free webinar is open to everyone working in childcare and will be delivered on 6 different dates, and at different times of day, to ensure there will be a slot that suits everyone. One of the events will be filmed and placed on the website, so even if the dates and times prove tricky, colleagues can still access the advice provided at the events.

The pandemic has been an extremely challenging time for everyone and ELC professionals have often gone above and beyond in their support for the children and families they work with. These webinars are therefore designed to provide colleagues with practical advice and strategies to help ensure you're looking after yourself, your team and those you support every day. Previous events proved hugely popular and feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with colleagues appreciating the practical nature of the advice provided. You can book a place now for one of the events at www.teamELCwellbeinghub.org. These events will complement the resources available on the website to support personal wellbeing. The Hub contains lots of advice and support as well as the facility to connect with colleagues across the sector.

Contact: Scott Sutherland at Scott.Sutherland@gov.scot

4. Workforce Strategy

We have committed to developing a new, five-year Workforce Strategy to explore the range of workforce challenges and priorities for the childcare sector in the context of the implementation of the 1140 hours ELC commitment, COVID-19 recovery, and our Programme for Government forward commitments on childcare. The Strategy will be developed collaboratively with the sector, and we'll set out further information on the development process soon.

Contact: Kathryn Chisholm at kathryn.chisholm@gov.scot

5. Financial Sustainability Health Check

The Scottish Government published the [Financial Sustainability Health Check](#) on 31 August 2021. Alongside the [main report](#) a supporting [Analysis and Evidence report](#) has also been published.

The Health Check has collected evidence on the sustainability of the childcare sector, in particular on the impact of COVID-19, and sets out the further action that will be taken to ensure a sustainable childcare sector in Scotland. It has been informed by evidence and analysis from: detailed surveys of childcare providers; in-depth case study interviews with a range of providers; discussions with provider representative bodies; and analysis of trends in registration data.

Updated information has also been [published](#) on the sustainable rates that local authorities have set for private, third and childminding services delivering funded early learning and childcare (ELC).

We will work with the sector and delivery partners to progress a series of actions to enable recovery and to support the long-term sustainability of the sector, including:

- Delivering an initial programme of targeted business, financial management, marketing and human resources (HR) support for all types of childcare services.
- A series of actions to support recruitment and retention across all parts of the childcare sector, including developing a five year workforce strategy for the sector.
- Strengthening the process for local authorities to set sustainable rates for providers in the private, third and childminding sectors to deliver funded ELC.

- Working with the sector to undertake a review of the administrative requirements on providers, particularly for private, third and childminding sector services, and set out what action will be taken to reduce and simplify processes by no later than April 2022.
- Updating and refreshing [Our Commitment to Childminding](#) to reflect the findings and next steps from the Financial Sustainability Health Check and the report on '[Perceptions of the impact of childminding services on child, parent and family outcomes](#)', which was published on 28th September.
- Working with COSLA and local authority childcare teams to map the various existing approaches to the contract management of let agreements.
- Undertaking a review to explore how the impact of the core funding that each of the representative bodies receives can be maximised to support outcomes for children, childcare services, and to provide long-term sustainability for these bodies.
- Monitoring and assessing the impact of recent changes to self-isolation requirements on trends in child and staff absence across the sector, and on service closures due to COVID-19, in order to identify where actions may be required to support the sector to adapt.

Contact: Euan Carmichael's Sector Sustainability and Partnership Team at ELCPartnershipForum@gov.scot

6. Reform of Education Scotland and the Scottish Qualifications Authority

6.1 Invitation to attend WEBINAR session with Professor Ken Muir

On 22 June 2021, the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills announced the intention to replace the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) and consider a new specialist agency for both curriculum and assessment while also taking forward reform to Education Scotland, including removing the function of inspection from the agency.

Professor Ken Muir, University of the West of Scotland, has been appointed to act as an independent advisor to the Scottish Government to consider and advise on the replacement of the Scottish Qualifications Authority and the reform of Education Scotland. This review will include consideration of Education Scotland's role in relation to the Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) sector.

Professor Muir is keen to engage widely to hear the views and ideas from all those with an interest in Scottish Education, including voices from the ELC sector. This webinar is an opportunity to hear first-hand about this work and to **have your say on shaping the future of the national bodies supporting Education in Scotland**. We would encourage you to share this invite as widely as possible through your networks.

How to book

Please use the links below to select and book a webinar via eventbrite – each session will take place from 4.30 p.m. till 6 p.m. and follow the same format (the selection being offered is to provide options for dates, and to allow as many people to attend one of the sessions as possible):

- Webinar Option 1 - [Thursday 30 September 2021](#)
- Webinar Option 2 - [Wednesday 6 October 2021](#)
- Webinar Option 3 - [Thursday 28 October 2021](#)

Please note these webinars will be held via Microsoft Teams live; the link to join will be sent by email on the day.

6.2 Public consultation

As part of the independent review, a [consultation hosted on behalf of Professor Ken Muir has been published](#), with an open invite for all who have an interest in Scottish education to engage in and help set the direction of travel for the future of Scottish education. The consultation will seek views on how we can build on the strengths we have developed in Scottish education and address some of the recommendations and questions raised in the OECD report 'Scotland's Curriculum for Excellence: into the future'. When issued, we would encourage you to share the consultation as widely as possible through your networks. A link to the host site for the consultation will be made available [here](#).

In addition to responding to the written consultation, organisations and individuals are able to make written submissions. These should be emailed for Professor Muir's attention to educationreform@gov.scot.

Contact: Samantha Broadley – samantha.broadley@gov.scot

7. Education Scotland

7.1 Scottish Learning Festival

One of this year's sessions at the Scottish Learning Festival relating to ELC was the ELC Innovation Awards and the power of creative practice. Four winners of the 2020 ELC Innovation Awards shared inspiring examples of good practice of an innovative project within their setting. The full session was recorded and will be available on the Scottish Learning Festival website shortly.

- [David at Cathkin Nursery](#) presented how they are supporting LGBT+ families by training staff and providing gender neutral resources.
- [Lisa at Mayfield Nursery](#) presented how they are supporting emotional regulation and finding different ways to challenge behaviour.
- [Gillian at Hillview Nursery](#) presented how they are helping to improve children's early maths skills by using the 'Growth Mindset' approach to build confidence and resilience in maths.
- [Angela at Sheepphouse Nursery](#) presented how they have created an alternative learning space in an outdoor playroom to maximise opportunities for risky play activities.

Contact: ELC Innovation Awards - Mel Parkinson at melissa.parkinson@gov.scot

On Thursday 23 September Claire Warden presented a breakfast session about the Virtual Nature School (VNS) which was funded by Scottish Government and supported outdoor experiences using an online platform during the Covid-19 pandemic. The VNS went on to support practitioners to develop their skills and confidence in delivering outdoor experiences within early learning and childcare. The programme supported more than 2500 practitioners and 40,000 children and families during the pandemic.

The full session was recorded and will be available on the Scottish Learning Festival website shortly.

Contact: ELC Virtual Nature School - Lynne Carter at lynne.carter@gov.scot

8. Care Inspectorate

8.1 Care Inspectorate communication on children leaving settings unsupervised



As we settle into the new term, it's important to remind all early learning and childcare services to be aware of how and why children could potentially leave a setting without staff or a parent/carer.

To support settings to keep children safe, the Care Inspectorate have published a [poster](#) and [graphic](#), available for ELC settings to download and print, to raise awareness of how, and why, children could leave a childcare setting without a responsible adult.

If settings would like to share this message with staff and parents, a communication toolkit can be accessed [online](#).

All services should notify the Care Inspectorate of any incidents of children leaving settings without staff or a parent/carer within 24 hours of the incident. This can be done via the [Care Inspectorate Eforms website](#).

Contact: Samantha Broadley at samantha.broadley@gov.scot

9. Targeted Childcare and Family Wellbeing

9.1 Funded early learning and childcare for two year olds: Eligibility due to Parents' Receipt of Working Tax Credits or Universal Credit – New Income Threshold

In [June's](#) Programme Update, we made you aware that we had laid Regulations to amend the eligibility criteria for funded early learning and childcare (ELC) for two-year-olds. This was in response to UK Government policy change relating to the increase in the National Living Wage.

The Minister attended the Education, Children and Young People Committee on 8 September and gave evidence on 'The Provision of Early Learning and Childcare (Specified Children) (Scotland) Amendment (No. 2) Order 2021'. The Committee were supportive of the proposed changes to income thresholds and recommended approval.

We can now advise that the Order has been approved by the Scottish Parliament and will come into force on 30 September 2021. The new thresholds are:

- Child tax Credit and Working Tax Credit and income is **£7,500** or less;
- Universal Credit with household take-home pay, is **£625** a month or less

A letter will be sent to all local authorities shortly to confirm that Regulations have been approved and are now in force.

Contact: Kerrie Harkness at Kerrie.Harkness@gov.scot

9.2 One and two Year Olds

[A Fairer, Greener Scotland: Programme for Government 2021-22](#) was published on 7 September 2021, which set out the Scottish Government's ambition to **provide funded early learning to all one- and two-year-olds**, starting in the course of this Parliament with children from low-income households.

We will begin engagement this year with families, the early learning sector and academic experts to design how the new entitlement can best support children and families.

We will provide you with more information as work on this new commitment develops.

Contact: Joanna Mackenzie at Joanna.Mackenzie2@gov.scot

9.3 Creative Bravery Festival 2021

As part of this year's [Creative Bravery Festival](#), we are hoping to host an event alongside [People](#) to showcase the work being accomplished through the [Family Learning Scotland Programme](#).

“Rediscovering Joy – Families and practitioners' journey towards playful connectedness” will show how practitioners and parents, learning through play together, can realise the ambition to better support children and create positive outcomes for whole families. The online event will also show you how you can rediscover how to reconnect with your own playfulness and consider how this can help enable greater wellbeing. Practitioners will also be speaking about the obstacles they have overcome, the new methodologies tested and new skills that have been learned to build close relationships in a virtual world.

More information on this event can be found here: [Rediscovering Joy – journeys towards playful connectedness \(creativebraveryfestival.com\)](#)

Contact: Marie McQuade at Marie.Mcquade@gov.scot

10. [Care Inspectorate ELC Quality Improvement](#)

10.1 Quality Improvement Support - Bitesize ‘Quick Wins’

We know that high quality ELC provides children with the skills and confidence to carry into school education, improves children's outcomes and contributes to closing the poverty-related attainment gap. Following the implementation of the 1140 expansion programme it is essential that settings are supported to deliver high quality ELC which meets the [National Standard](#).

A suite of improvement focused online resources are available to support settings with quality improvement. Settings can view these sessions in their own time and select areas relevant to their own service.

Bitesize sessions on improvement support, available on the Care Inspectorate HUB, include:

- [Scrutiny and Assurance during Covid-19](#)
- [An introduction to Quality Improvement Methodology](#)
- [Key Question 5 self-evaluation](#)

In addition, '[Quick Win](#)' sessions covering common, functional areas for improvement which have been identified through inspection are also available on the Care Inspectorate HUB, and include information on:

- Medication
- Safe Recruitment
- Scottish Social Services Registration
- Notifications
- Quality assurance calendars

Contact: Vicky Lamb, Senior Improvement Advisor at the Care Inspectorate at elcimprove@careinspectorate.gov.scot

10.2 Early Learning & Childcare (ELC) Inclusion Fund Open for Applications

The ELC Inclusion Fund will distribute £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 provided by the Scottish Government and managed by Children in Scotland.

The sixth round of the Early Learning & Childcare Inclusion Fund opened to applications on 20 September. ELC settings can apply for funding for staff training, resources, equipment and adaptations to support children with ASN to access their funded ELC. The ELC Inclusion Fund can also be used to support children with ASN that have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

For further information about how to apply please visit the Children in Scotland [website](#) or email inclusionfund@childreninscotland.org.uk.

Contact: Hallé Brown at halle.brown@gov.scot

10.3 Continued food payments for children unable to attend ELC due to COVID-19 closures

During previous lockdown periods, we asked local authorities to ensure that all children who were eligible to receive a free meal via their parent or carer's benefit status should continue to receive meal provision and/or other poverty related measures to ensure their entitlement continued while their setting was closed.

If a setting has to close because of COVID-19, local authorities are required to make meal provision available for all families in receipt of eligible qualifying benefits for free meals.

With regards to children and young people who receive free meals through universal entitlement, there is no legal obligation to make provision to families who are not in receipt of eligible qualifying benefits but who receive free meals through universal entitlement. However, during the first period of restricted access to ELC (between March and June 2020) we are aware that some local authorities made provision available to those age groups where universal provision was given. This decision would have been taken at the local level.

Likewise, if families are not eligible to receive a free meal but are experiencing financial hardship, they can approach the local authority and ask if they would be willing to offer assistance. The local authority should consider each individual request on a case-by-case basis.

Contact: Francois Roos at Francois.Roos@gov.scot

11. SEEMiS Early Years

Development of the new system has been delayed. A great deal of re-planning has taken place over the last few months to ensure all system requirements are fully captured. The outcome of this re-planning exercise is that the system will now go live in 2022. Exact dates will be agreed in due course.

The project User Group will be looking to reinstate the online LA Readiness events which will help the local authorities to plan and prepare managing the use of the existing platform in light of the project delays as well as showcasing project progress to track development against the system requirements. It is hoped these will start again towards the end of October 2021.

Contact: Raymond Buckley at Raymond.Buckley@gov.scot

12. ELC analysis

Perceptions of the impact of childminding services on child, parent and family outcomes

We commissioned Ipsos MORI Scotland to carry out a qualitative research project with childminders and parents in Scotland. The research aimed to develop the evidence base on the existing and potential impact of childminding services on child, parent/carer, and family outcomes, in the context of the ELC expansion.

A [full report](#) and short [summary](#) of the findings were published on 28 September. The report provides a wealth of evidence that will be useful to support actions from the Commitment to Childminding plan, particularly the focus areas: Supporting childminding as a choice, by improving availability and access to childminders; and Promoting childminding as a choice, by helping parents and carers make informed choices

Contact: Catriona Rooke, ELC Research at Catriona.Rooke@gov.scot

13. **The National Care Service for Scotland consultation**

The National Care Service for Scotland consultation launched on 9 August 2021 setting out proposals to improve the way we deliver social care in Scotland, following the recommendations of the Independent Review of Adult Social Care.

The consultation proposals on the remit of a National Care Service goes beyond the recommendations and provides an opportunity to look holistically at the system of support for adults, children, young people, community justice and all social work services. The ambition of this Government is to go much further, and to create a comprehensive community health and social care service that supports people of all ages.

The scope of the NCS should therefore be seen in the context of the Promise, UNCRC, GIRFEC, the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund and other children's policy areas including Barnahus and the Age of Criminal Responsibility, all of which have implications for the future delivery of children's services.

The proposal is not, however, that all children's services are included in the NCS. Children's services is a broad term that is defined in Part 3 of Children and Young People Act 2014 – for our purposes we are effectively referring to children's social work and social care. However, schools, early learning and childcare (ELC) and youth work would remain out with the scope of services for inclusion in the NCS. Consideration is being given to how best to ensure consistent delivery of services to the most vulnerable children and families, which is frequently related to the provision of services to adults, which is why we suggest the inclusion of children's services.

Some of the consultation questions are of wider relevance to the ELC sector, including those relating to the functions of the Care Inspectorate, and we encourage all stakeholders and organisations with ELC interests to participate and engage with this opportunity. The consultation can be accessed online at <https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-care-service-scotland-consultation/>

Contact: NCSconsultation@gov.scot

13. Annex A – Forward Look Calendar

October 2021	Event	Information	Link
1 October	Online Wellbeing Webinars	Free wellbeing webinars for all childcare professionals. These workshops will provide attendees with the knowledge, skills and understanding to support them to begin to have powerful wellbeing conversations within a team environment.	Event (teamelcwellbeinghub.org)
6 October	Public Health Blether for Early Learning and Childcare Providers	<p>This public health blether is aimed at practitioners and staff across all sectors who are involved in providing registered childcare to children and families.</p> <p>This session will provide the sector with the opportunity to engage with clinicians and public health experts on the current COVID-19 risk mitigations. For those with any concerns about vaccine safety, this is an opportunity to put your questions directly to an expert panel, including: Professor Jason Leitch, National Clinical Director, and Dr Syed Ahmed, Senior Medical Officer.</p>	Public Health Blether for Early Learning and Childcare Providers Events News and events Education Scotland

6 October	Engaging families in Maths and Numeracy Series - Improving outcomes	This Creative Conversation is aimed at practitioners and staff across all sectors who have responsibility or are involved in supporting children and families. This final session will look at strategies for improving outcomes for children with mathematical learning difficulties.	Engaging families in Maths and Numeracy Series - Improving outcomes Events News and events Education Scotland
7 October	Big Talk: Giving value to conversation between parents and children	This Creative Conversation is aimed at practitioners and staff across all sectors who have responsibility or are involved in supporting children and families. Children with poor communication skills may find it difficult to successfully engage in conversations with their peers and adults. They may also have difficulty developing social skills and relationships.	Big Talk: Giving value to conversation between parents and children Events News and events Education Scotland
29 October	The application deadline date for the sixth round of funding is 5pm on Friday 29 October 2021	The ELC Inclusion Fund will distribute £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.	Children in Scotland Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) Inclusion Fund

12. Annex B – Publications

Date Published	Document Link
16/09/2021	Coronavirus (COVID-19): managing cases in schools and childcare settings - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)
31/08/2021	Financial sustainability health check of the childcare sector in Scotland - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)
31/08/2021	Early learning and childcare providers - local authority funding and support: overview - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)
13/08/2021	Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance for school age childcare services - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)
13/08/2021	Coronavirus (COVID-19): childminder services guidance - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)
12/08/2021	Coronavirus (COVID-19): early learning and childcare (ELC) services - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)
11/08/2021	Warn+and+Inform+++information+sheet.pdf (www.gov.scot)Warn and Inform information sheet.pdf (www.gov.scot)
03/08/2021	Coronavirus (COVID-19): early learning and childcare (ELC) services - checklist of mitigations for Level 0 and below - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)
20/07/2021	Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance for school age childcare services
20/07/2021	Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance for childminder services
13/07/2021	Early learning and childcare: statutory guidance - July 2021
23/06/2021	Early Learning and Childcare – National Induction Resource: Latest Version June 2021
22/06/2021	Early Learning and Childcare: 2 year old eligibility - Income Threshold Change – June 2021- EQIA
22/06/2021	Early Learning and Childcare: 2 year old eligibility – Income Threshold Change – June 2021- BRIA
21/06/2021	New ELC Guidance from 5 July, New School Age Childcare Guidance from 5 July and New Childminder Guidance from 5 July
16/06/2021	Early Learning and Childcare Expansion Delivery Progress Report, May 2021
07/06/2021	Scottish Milk and Healthy Snack Scheme: guidance for local authorities and day care settings
24/03/2021	Funding follows the child and the national standard for early learning and childcare providers: interim guidance - update March 2021
24/03/2021	Equity and excellence leads: Care Inspectorate findings
17/03/2021	Out to Play - creating outdoor play experiences for children: practical guidance - new chapters
17/03/2021	Nature-based early learning and childcare - influence on children's health, wellbeing and development: literature review
15/03/2021	Early Years providers helped to take first steps with with cyber security - National Cyber Security Centre
15/03/2021	Coronavirus (COVID-19): updated school aged childcare services guidance
05/03/2021	Coronavirus (COVID-19): updated childminder services guidance
05/03/2021	Coronavirus (COVID-19): updated early learning and childcare guidance
17/03/2021	Nature-based early learning and childcare - influence on children's health, wellbeing and development: literature review
15/03/2021	Early Years providers helped to take first steps with cyber security - National Cyber Security Centre
21/01/2021	Our commitment to childminding: report