

Provisional Outline of Scope: M8

This module will examine the impact of the pandemic on children and young people in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.¹ The module will consider the impact of the pandemic on children across society including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities² and from a diverse range of ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds. It will include an examination of the decision-making in the areas set out below so far as it relates to children and young people, the impact of those decisions on children and young people and the wider and long term impact of the pandemic on children and young people including in relation to early years provision and education (including further and/or higher education, apprenticeships or training), health and social care.

Areas to be covered in this module will include:

1. The extent to which children and young people were considered as part of any preparedness and planning for a pandemic.
2. The extent to which children and young people were considered by the UK Government and the Devolved Administrations in respect of the application of non-pharmaceutical Interventions (NPIs) and the impact of those decisions.
3. The impact of the pandemic on the education of, and the early years provision for, children and young people (including further and/or higher education, apprenticeships).
4. The impact of the pandemic on children and young people's physical and mental health, wellbeing, development, family lives and on their access to healthcare services.
5. The impact of the pandemic on children and young people in relation to access to and engagement with social care services and other agencies with a role in supporting the safety of children. This will include children at risk, children whose families receive support from social services, young carers, those in the care of local authorities, care and care leavers.
6. The impact of the pandemic on children and young people in contact with the criminal justice system including those in the youth custody estate, youth defendants and offenders and those whose parents or primary carers were in custody during the pandemic;
7. The impact of the pandemic on children and young people in contact with the immigration system.
8. The impact of the pandemic on children and young people in relation to their access to and use of the internet, social media and online resources.

¹ For the purposes of this module, a "child" will be defined as an individual aged between 0 to 18.

A "young person" will be defined as follows:

The individual was a) a care leaver between the ages of 18 and 25; or b) had special educational needs and/or disabilities (up to 25 years old); or c) was 18 to 25 and attended further and/or higher education and/or training; or d) was between the ages of 18 and 25 and in the custody of the state.

² The term "special educational needs and/or disabilities" is used broadly and is intended to encompass children with SEND (England and Northern Ireland), additional support needs (Scotland) and/or additional learning needs (Wales).