



Children and Young People



[Care Experience](#)

[Child Protection](#)

[Early Learning and
Childcare](#)

[Equalities](#)

[Justice](#)

[Mental Health](#)

[Workforce](#)

[Other Health and Social
Care](#)

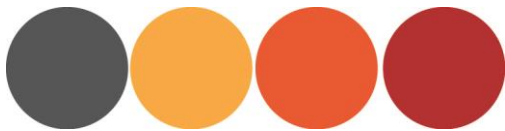
Care Experience

[Ministerial statement following Oversight Board report on The Promise](#)

The Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise, Natalie Don-Innes, made a statement to Parliament following publication of the third [Promise Oversight Board report](#). The statement reflected on progress to date and emphasised the cross-portfolio commitment to future progress. The Minister reaffirmed the plan to prepare and introduce a Promise Bill later this year and welcomed the progress framework in allowing progress to be tracked in one place.

[Webinar on challenges facing care experienced in Scotland and Wales](#)

The Children and Young People's Centre for Justice (CYCJ) has made available a webinar on some of the long lasting and complex challenges facing care experienced young people. Research undertaken at Swansea University in collaboration with CYCJ sought to understand and contextualise the social harms faced by children in Scotland and Wales. The webinar draws directly from engagement with individuals in both nations to explore the experiences of those who become care experienced and those who are charged with protecting and supporting them.



[EHRC welcomes ruling on foster carers' discrimination and whistleblowing claims](#)

A ruling that three foster carers should be allowed to bring discrimination and whistleblowing rights claims as workers has been welcomed by the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC). The case, brought by foster carers Pauline Oni, Paulette Dawkins and Angela Reid, was supported by the EHRC and the National Union of Professional Foster Carers. Baroness Kishwer Falkner, Chairwoman of the Equality and Human Rights Commission, said she hoped the employment tribunal judgement "gives foster carers peace of mind that they are not alone if they are mistreated, and that there is now a potential route to a legal remedy".

Child Protection

[NSPCC calls for better protection in private messaging environments](#)

The NSPCC is urging the UK Government to ensure children are better protected in private messaging environments, STV News reports. According to a Freedom of Information (FOI) request put to the Scottish Government by the charity, 3,419 child sexual abuse crimes have been recorded by Police Scotland since 2019. A separate FOI request submitted to police forces across the UK showed that where law enforcement recorded the platform used by perpetrators, 50% took place on Snapchat, 11% on Instagram, 7% on Facebook and 6% on WhatsApp.

[Isabella Child Safeguarding Practice Review published \(England\)](#)

A Child Safeguarding Practice Review has been published in relation to the death of Isabella Wheildon in Ipswich, Suffolk. Central Bedfordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership published the findings, intended to identify learning and consolidate good practice and including recommendations for improvement.

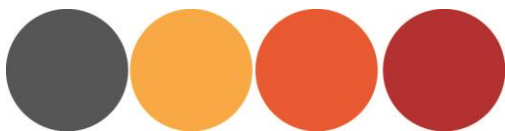
Early Learning and Childcare

[Invitation to upcoming sessions on new ELC Quality Improvement Framework](#)

The Care Inspectorate and Education Scotland HM Inspectors would like to invite practitioners to upcoming in-person engagement sessions on the new Quality Improvement Framework for the early learning and childcare (ELC) sectors. The sessions, taking place on 25 February (Glasgow), 27 February (Edinburgh) and 11 March (Inverness), will provide an opportunity for direct engagement on different aspects of the framework. We will continue to use our existing frameworks and approaches for inspection while the new approaches are developed, ahead of implementation in September 2025. The 18-month gap between Education Scotland and Care Inspectorate inspections will also remain in place.

[School Age Childcare feasibility study update](#)

In August 2024, the Scottish Government and the Care Inspectorate started work on a joint six-month feasibility study to consider the future scrutiny of School Age



Childcare (SACC) services. The aim of the study was to carry out a review of current regulation, better understand the challenges faced by the SACC sector, and look at whether regulatory change might support services to operate more sustainably. The study also looked at whether it might be possible to bring a wider range of services into the scope of SACC. The study finished at the beginning of February 2025 and we are now drawing together all of the information which has been gathered and will be developing a range of options for Ministers to consider. We expect to provide a further update in April/May 2025 about progress and next steps.

[SCMA offers course on Understanding Child Development \(5–8 Years\)](#)

The Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) is offering a course aiming to provide an understanding of what child development looks like between the ages of five to eight and the theory behind it. The e-learning course is fully funded by the Scottish Government as it seeks to develop models of wrap around childcare for school-age children.

[Researchers report on lived experience of childcare for parents on Universal Credit](#)

A report on the lived experiences of childcare for parents on Universal Credit (UC) has been published by the Institute for Policy Research at the University of Bath. Researchers looked at the main forms of support and policy context for childcare across the UK and carried out interviews with low income parents on UC. The study found that insufficient free hours, added provider fees, and a lack of after-school and limited holiday club options leave many families struggling to balance work and care. Recommendations include fully subsidised childcare for under-fives for working parents on UC and the expansion of free childcare support to include non-registered clubs, such as sports or drama clubs.

Equalities

[National conference on role of adults and the arts in the realisation of babies' rights](#)

A national conference to highlight the role of adults and the arts in the realisation of babies' rights in Scotland will take place in Stirling on 6 March. The Right Start, presented by Starcatchers, will feature a range of speakers exploring the theme of Babies, their Rights, Voice and the Arts.

Justice

[Advisory group on review of age of criminal responsibility legislation reports](#)

The age of criminal responsibility should be increased to at least 14 as soon as possible, according to an advisory group established to review the Age of Criminal Responsibility (Scotland) Act 2019. The group undertook a statutory review to evaluate the operation of the Act, as well as considering any future age of criminal responsibility. The three year review period started on the day on which section 1 of the Act came into force and concluded on 16 December 2024. The group recommended the age be increased to at least 14 as soon as possible, and then to



16 in the near future. The report also reflects on the policy landscape and how this has changed since the legislation was enacted.

Mental Health

[Intervention normalising everyday emotions shows promise in school-based trial](#)

An intervention that helps students normalise everyday emotions is the most promising out of several approaches trialled in a mental health research project. The Evidence Based Practice Unit, a collaboration between Anna Freud and University College London, the Education for Wellbeing project ran from 2018 to 2024 and involved 32,655 students in 513 schools across England. Of the five interventions trialled, the most successful in leading to positive outcomes helped students normalise everyday emotions, like stress and sadness, better understand how to differentiate them from mental ill health and know where to access support if needed.

Workforce

[SSSC publishes slides on new CPL and RTP requirements](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has made slides available on how staff should meet new continuous professional learning (CPL) and return to practice (RTP) registration requirements. The slides were used at recent online events to support employers to understand the new requirements, which came into effect in June 2024.

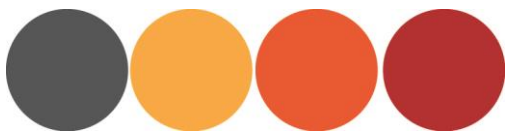
[Guide to employing 16 and 17-year-olds in social care](#)

A new guide to support and encourage the employment of 16 and 17-year-olds in the social care sector has been published by the Scottish Social Services Council in partnership with the Care Inspectorate, Scottish Care, the Coalition of Care Providers Scotland and Skills Development Scotland. The resource provides employers with practical advice and good practice for recruiting, onboarding and supporting young people in the workplace. It addresses key considerations such as legal requirements, safeguarding, training, and mentorship, ensuring a safe and positive experience for both the young employees and the individuals they care for.

Other Health and Social Care

[Proposed new amendments to National Care Service \(Scotland\) Bill](#)

The Scottish Government has confirmed the changes it plans to make to the National Care Service (Scotland) Bill when the Scottish Parliament considers the legislation at Stage 2 next week. The Health, Social Care and Sport Committee has published amendments which, if agreed, would change the Bill's name to the Care Reform (Scotland) Bill to reflect the removal of Part 1 of the Bill. Other changes include enshrining Anne's Law into the Bill with more detail about how it will work in practice, and plans for the National Social Work Agency to become an executive



agency. The Scottish Government has updated its [factsheet](#) on the Bill, explaining how it plans to move forward with the legislation.

[More children in temporary accommodation in Edinburgh than Wales, charity says](#)

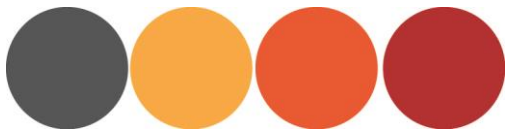
There are more children living in temporary accommodation in Edinburgh than there are across all of Wales, according to Shelter Scotland. The charity highlights figures from the City of Edinburgh Council's Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee suggesting there are more than 3,600 children in Edinburgh in temporary housing as of November 2024, comparing with 2,823 children in temporary accommodation in Wales in the same month. Shelter calls for action to "target resources where they are most needed" if child poverty targets are to be met.

[New online resource to support strategic planning launched](#)

An online resource to support strategic planning in health and social care has been launched by Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS). The resource, which sits within the Scottish Approach to Change work, provides insight, support, tools, and worked examples for strategic planning teams across NHS boards and health and social care partnerships. It is split into three sections: Strategic Planning Role; Strategic Planning Thinking; Resource Directory.

[New Westminster legislation on asylum and immigration](#)

The UK Government has introduced the Border Security, Asylum and Immigration Bill at Westminster. Among a range of measures, the Bill would remove provisions that would see unaccompanied young people whose age was disputed treated as adults if they refused a scientific age assessment without reasonable grounds. The Bill would also remove powers for immigration officials to detain children and unaccompanied young people, before their 18th birthday, for 28 days without bail, pending their removal from the country.

**Disclaimer**

This weekly bulletin is produced as an update on the key issues concerning children and young people.

Each item in the bulletin has a hyperlinked headline that will take the reader to the original source.

We collate items from our parliamentary and Scottish Government monitoring covering health and social care news from throughout the UK, and current research and policy development. We use a variety of sources for the bulletin, including alerts from [Newsdirect](#), [Community Care](#), [Children & Young People Now](#) and [ISD Scotland](#).

We aim to be representative rather than comprehensive, so we try to cover only the main Scottish stories, along with some stories from the rest of the UK. The purpose of the bulletin is to alert readers to items of interest. It should be noted that these items are the works of others and are neither authorised nor endorsed by the Care Inspectorate, with the exception of publications which are identified as Care Inspectorate publications.

It should also be noted that the Care Inspectorate has no liability in respect of the content of external websites which may be signposted on this site.