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Child Protection

[Westminster committee calls duty of care on social media companies](#)

Social media companies must be subject to a legal duty of care to help protect young people when accessing their sites, according to MPs at Westminster. A report by the Science and Technology Committee highlights the benefits of social media but argues that more should be done to protect children, including a formal legal duty of care to ensure social media companies help protect young users, identify those at risk and help improve current online safety measures.

[Evidence store reviews social care intervention options \(England\)](#)

An 'evidence store' reviewing different intervention options has been launched by the What Works Centre for Children's Social Care. The store features 'at-a-glance ratings' for overall effectiveness and strength of evidence for each option, alongside additional detail on how the intervention works, who it is for and where it has been studied.

Early Years and Childcare

[National conference for social care and early years staff and final year students](#)

A national conference for staff and final year students training for a career in social care and early years is taking place on 20 March at Ayrshire College. What Matters to Us is to focus on person-centred and



person-led care to equip future practitioners with the support they need.

[Analysis of early years policy published \(England\)](#)

An analysis of UK Government policies on early years provision has been published by the Education Policy Institute. According to the analysis, there is a “possible trade-off” between the take-up of early years entitlement for disadvantaged two year olds and take-up of the 30 hours entitlement for three and four year olds.

Health

[Ofcom reports on children and parents’ media use](#)

A report on media use and understanding among children aged 5-15, as well as young children aged 3-4, has been published by Ofcom. The report also includes findings relating to parents’ views about their children’s media use, and the ways that parents seek, or decide not, to monitor or limit use of types of media.

[Latest on Glasgow infection outbreaks](#)

Two hospitals in Glasgow are the subject of separate investigations into infection outbreaks, as reported by the BBC. Two premature babies died after contracting the staphylococcus aureus bacterium at the Princess Royal Maternity Hospital, while a third baby in the unit is receiving treatment after also contracting the blood stream infection. The news comes after a 10-year-old boy and a 73-year-old woman died after contracting the staphylococcus aureus bacterium at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital.

Justice

[Fiona Dyer takes over as Interim Director of CYCJ](#)

Fiona Dyer has taken over as Interim Director of the Centre for Youth and Criminal Justice (CYCJ) while Claire Lightowler is on research leave. The news comes in the latest CYCJ e-bulletin, which also features latest figures, events and resources.

[Latest annual statistics on criminal proceedings in Scotland](#)

Statistics on criminal proceedings in Scotland during 2017-18 have been published by the Scottish Government. The figures provide a summary of offences dealt with by courts, sentencing outcomes, including the use of community sentences, and characteristics of convicted offenders.

[Attempt to further increase minimum age of criminal responsibility defeated](#)

Alex Cole-Hamilton’s attempt to increase the minimum age of criminal responsibility to either 14 or 16 has been defeated in the Scottish Parliament. As it stands, the Scottish Government’s [Age of Criminal Responsibility \(Scotland\) Bill](#) will see the age of criminal responsibility in Scotland raised from eight to 12. However, Mr Cole-



Hamilton, a Liberal Democrat MSP, proposed amendments seeking to further increase the minimum age. However, the Stage 2 amendments were voted down at a meeting of the Equalities and Human Rights Committee.

Looked After and Accommodated Children

[Good practice information sheet on placement of children who pose a high risk](#)

The Centre for Youth and Criminal Justice (CYCJ) has published an information sheet offering good practice principles when considering the placement of children away from home when appropriate community based support services in their home communities are not able to meet their needs. The paper is written by Fiona Dyer and based on the Whole System Approach ethos.

[Call for papers ahead of special SJRCC issue](#)

A call for papers has been launched ahead of a special themed issue of the Scottish Journal of Residential Child Care (SJRCC). The issue will mark the 20th anniversary of the Scottish Institute of Residential Child Care Conference taking place on 4-5 June in Glasgow. The deadline for proposed articles is 22 February.

[Slides from PACE workshop provided by CELCIS](#)

Slides from a workshop sharing learning resulting from implementation of the Permanence and Care Excellence (PACE) programme have been made available by the Centre for excellence for looked after children in Scotland (CELCIS). The aim of the session was to “look specifically at the key milestones on the journey to permanence and the data issues that these pose”.

[SCRA publishes second corporate parenting annual report](#)

The Scottish Children’s Reporters Administration (SCRA) has published its second Annual Report for Young People, setting out progress against the six commitments made in its Corporate Parenting Plan. The report reaffirms the commitments and gives examples of activity aimed at improving the Children’s Hearings System.

Mental Health

[Event on social media and children’s mental health](#)

Holyrood is to host an event on social media and children’s mental health on 2 May 2019. The Edinburgh examine the impact of social media on wellbeing and share insights and practical guidance on the subject.

[Three day conference on children’s mental health and wellbeing in September](#)

A three day conference on the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people is to take place at the University of Stirling across 5 – 7 September. The



conference, hosted by the Centre for Child Wellbeing and Protection, aims to provide “a space in which practitioners and academics can explore research, theory and practice” and “an opportunity to reflect on and critique established research, policy and practice, to share and celebrate what works, and to explore solutions to the challenges of the future”.

Other

[Complaints about care services in Scotland 2014/15 to 2017/18](#)

The Care Inspectorate has published a report on complaints about care services in Scotland between 2014 and 2018. The report shows that while the overall quality of care services in Scotland remains consistently high, the number of complaints received by the scrutiny and improvement body has increased over the period. Care services operating in Scotland must be registered with the Care Inspectorate and there are currently almost 13,300 services registered. Most complaints received (45%) over the period were made by friends, relatives or carers of a person who experiences the care service. The majority of the 1,435 complaints that were investigated in 2017/18 were upheld (56% of completed investigations). Over the last four years, 21% of the complaints investigated were about daycare of children services and a further 8% were about childminders.

[SSSC publishes Children’s Services Workforce 2017 data report](#)

A report providing data on the children’s social services workforce has been published by the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC). The report, which supplements information in the Scottish Social Service Sector: Report on 2017 Workforce Data, provides detailed figures on children’s services as a whole, as well as sub-sectors such as day care of children, residential child care and school care accommodation.

[Pilot of newly qualified social worker supported and assessed year underway](#)

A pilot to test approaches to a supported and assessed year for newly qualified social workers (NQSWS) has been launched by the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC). Three strands of the pilot are underway: in Aberdeenshire; Angus and a partnership coordinated through Learning Network West involving four local authorities (Dumfries and Galloway, East Ayrshire, Glasgow and North Lanarkshire) and four higher education institutes. Those taking part in the pilot will be assessed against a draft NQSW standard.

[Latest Iriss round-up focuses on new Standards project](#)

The latest issue of the Iriss round-up includes an update on a new project help build an evidence base to bridge the Health and Social Care Standards with practice. Along with the Health and Social Care Standards Implementation Team and the Care Inspectorate, East Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership and Perth and Kinross Council are exploring what it means to experience compassion and human rights in professional care relationships.



[Iriss Insight focuses on impact of participation in health and social care](#)

Participation and its impact on health and social care is the subject of the latest Iriss Insight. According to the Insight, the impact of participation approaches within health and social care was viewed as positive overall but some of the available evidence is poor and the long-term effects of participation can be difficult to measure.

[Membership of new group to address loneliness and social isolation announced](#)

Membership of a new group to advise on addressing loneliness and social isolation has been announced by the Scottish Government. The first national strategy for tackling social isolation and loneliness was published in December 2018 and a range of public, third sector organisations and experts have been brought together to support implementation. Members include COSLA, Age Scotland, Youthlink Scotland and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

[Latest homelessness statistics published](#)

The latest figures on homelessness in Scotland have been published by the Scottish Government. The publication provides figures on homelessness applications, assessments and outcomes in the period to 30 September 2018.

[Scottish Budget to pass following agreement with Greens](#)

The Scottish Government has reached an agreement with the Scottish Green Party to ensure the Budget for 2019-20 passes all parliamentary stages. The agreement came ahead of a Stage 1 debate in which Finance Secretary Derek Mackay announced new measures to reform local authority funding. These include plans to work with COSLA to agree a three-year funding settlement for local government.



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.

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