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Child Protection

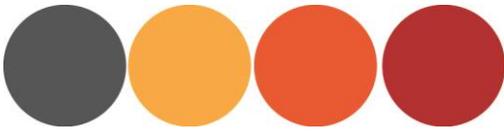
[Second place in the UK to outlaw smacking children \(Jersey\)](#)

The BBC reports that the States of Jersey have voted to outlaw smacking children, becoming the second place in the UK to do so. A section of law which allowed smacking of a child by a parent if it was deemed 'reasonable' has been repealed. The proposal was put forward by Deputy Mary Le Hegarat, who referred to previous commitments by Jersey's States Assembly to reform laws around children, following the Independent Jersey Care Inquiry's final report.

Early Years and Childcare

[Partnership event to encourage diversity in the early years workforce](#)

Early Years Scotland will deliver a partnership event involving Skills Development Scotland (SDS), Scottish Government, Glasgow City Council, Scottish Funding Council and Media Scotland in Glasgow on 31 January 2019. The event, 'A Career in Early Years is waiting for You!', will aim to diversify the workforce so that it is more representative of society, and give attendees the opportunity to hear valuable input from a diverse range of individuals who will support their next steps. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask the panel questions as well as having the opportunity to have face to face individual discussions with an extensive range of specialists from the early years sector.



Early Years and Childcare

[Comparative report on the early years workforce](#)

Information from a number of years of the Labour Force Survey has been used by the Education Policy Institute to compile a report comparing four groups of workers – childcare workers, teaching workers, workers in competing occupations such as hairdressers which are seen as career alternatives, and the entire female working population. The aims of this report are to provide a detailed analysis of the early years workforce in relation to demographic characteristics, education and training, and employment conditions, and to explore how key features have changed over time. Key findings include:

- qualification levels of childcare workers are increasing very slowly and sometimes erratically, and may be even lower in the future as the workforce is ageing and fewer employees are upskilling
- the childcare workforce earns a mean gross hourly pay of £8.20 in 2018, which is £5.00 less than the mean hourly pay of the female working population
- the proportion of childcare workers claiming state benefits or tax credits remains very high at 44.5% and is the highest among the four groups analysed

Education

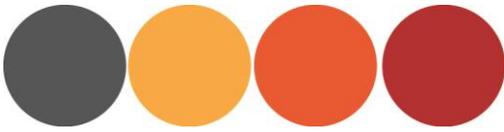
[Education regulator looks at rebalancing inspection and shifting focus \(England\)](#)

The English regulator Ofsted has launched a consultation on their proposals for changes to the education inspection framework, which looks to rebalances inspection to look rather more closely at the substance of education: what is taught and how it is taught, with test and exam outcomes looked at in that context, not in isolation. The consultation closes on 5 April 2019 and the new inspection framework will be finalised and published in summer 2019.

Justice

[Mental health expert to work with prisons inspectorate on review](#)

The Scottish Government has announced that a mental health expert, Consultant Forensic Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist Dr Helen Smith, will work with HM Inspectorate of Prisons for Scotland and others, to review support for young people in HM Prison & Young Offenders Institution Polmont. The review is to look at mental health and wellbeing support for young people in custody and is one of the actions across government which aims to improve support for vulnerable children and young people.



[Participation project to enable young people to share experiences of the justice system](#)

The Centre for Youth & Criminal Justice (CYCJ) is collaborating with the Scottish Throughcare and Aftercare Forum (Staf) to share the voices of young people with experience of both the looked after and the justice systems through a three year project using creative ways to enable young people to both explore and share their experiences with policymakers, managers and the Scottish Government.

[Results from stakeholder survey](#)

The Centre for Youth & Criminal Justice (CYCJ) has published the results of their 2018 stakeholder survey, which focused on the views and needs of parents and carers with a small selection of views from young people and the workforce also included. Key findings include:

- parents and carers found their child's contact with the justice system to be a very distressing experience; most commonly describing it as 'frightening', 'overwhelming' and 'disempowering'
- some parents and carers feel that the system lacks understanding and can be discriminatory against children with disabilities, particularly Autistic Spectrum Disorders, and they want the workforce to develop greater awareness and knowledge
- young people perceive the youth justice system as being mostly concerned with "punishment" rather than welfare
- young people want the workforce to be non-judgmental and "human", to "spend time with you and get to know you" and to form relationships based on mutual respect and trust, and most of all, they want to be heard and to be listened to

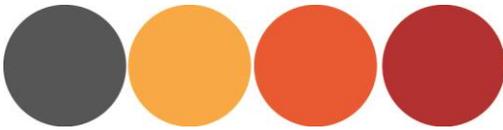
Other

[Figures on staff vacancies in social care services](#)

New figures on the levels of staff vacancies in Scotland's social care services have been published by the Care Inspectorate and the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC), providing a national overview of vacancies and recruitment difficulties reported by care services to the Care Inspectorate, the body which registers and inspects all social care services. It also introduces for the first time data on the actual number of vacancies services have, held by the SSSC, the social service workforce regulator.

[Data on registered care services published](#)

The Care Inspectorate has published a Statistical Summary Report for Quarter 3 of 2018/19 with data on the number of registered care services, new registrations and



cancellations, complaints about care services and grades all by care service type and or service sector.

[Social security charter](#)

The Scottish Government has published 'Our Charter' setting out the principles from the Social Security Act and outlining what they will mean in practice for people engaging with Scotland's new social security system. The charter has been created by people with experience of the existing social security system and outlines in detail what can be expected from the Scottish Government and Social Security Scotland for anyone accessing Scotland's new social security system.

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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