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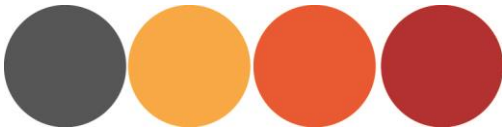
[Other](#)

Child Protection

[Charity calls for children to be recognised as victims of domestic abuse \(England\)](#)

The children's charity National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) is calling for children to be legally recognised as victims of domestic abuse. It is noted that the UK Government's proposed new statutory definition of domestic abuse only refers to the effects of abuse on those aged 16 years old and older. The NSPCC in calling for this legal recognition states that it would:

- give children greater protection through domestic abuse protection orders
- help professionals take action to protect children at risk
- help authorities ensure there are specific support services for children and young people



Early Years and Childcare

[Guidance on creating outdoor play experiences for children](#)

The Scottish Government, Inspiring Scotland, and Care Inspectorate have published 'Out to Play', practical guidance and advice for early learning and childcare settings and practitioners on how to access outdoor spaces, including land or forest areas owned by local authorities, private landowners or national bodies to create safe, nurturing and inspiring outdoor learning experiences. While the guide is primarily aimed at early learning and childcare settings, much of it is relevant for those providing out-of-school care and play experiences in an outdoor environment. The guidance is aimed at those:

- wishing to improve or increase their access to the outdoors
- who intend to set up a dispersed outdoor service (ie satellite) which shares the management structure with an existing early learning and childcare setting nearby
- who intend to establish an outdoor setting with minimal built infrastructure and its own management, structure and registration

[Childcare course aims to encourage more men to consider jobs in childcare](#)

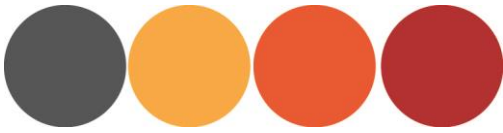
The BBC reports that the University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI) will be piloting a 12-week course to encourage men to consider jobs in childcare, and that those who successfully complete the course will be guaranteed an interview for the UHI's HNC Childcare course. The course will be supported by a grant from the Scottish Funding Council's Men in Early Years Challenge Fund, as part of an effort to increase childcare training.

[Study finds that regularly reading to pre-school-aged children has positive impact \(England\)](#)

A study is highlighted in Nursery World which examines 16 existing studies over the past 40 years where parents read books or electronic readers to their children who had a mean age of 39 months, and reportedly finds that regularly reading to children had a positive effect on their expressive language (where a child puts their thoughts into words) and pre-reading skills (such as how words are structured), however the biggest impact was on children's receptive language skills (the ability to understand information).

[Education regulator 'would welcome' discussion of gender equal play \(England\)](#)

The education regulator Ofsted is quoted by daynurseries.co.uk on the subject of gender equality and equal play, specifically the Care Inspectorate's 'Gender Equal Play in Early Learning and Childcare' guidance, and that they 'would welcome a discussion of this topic'. Ofsted currently evaluates the extent to which an early years setting promotes equality and recognises diversity through its teaching and learning.



[Reports of delays for childminders registering \(England\)](#)

Delays are reported in Nursery World, for prospective childminders registering with the education regulator Ofsted, and a reported 'backlog' of applications. The Professional Association for Childcare and Early Years (PACEY) is quoted as stating that the reported delays are putting childminders off joining the profession.

[Report calls for bringing younger and older people together \(England\)](#)

A report published by United for All Ages, 'The Next Generation', calls for younger and older people to be brought together for intergenerational interaction, Nursery World highlights. Using evidence from existing intergenerational projects, the report claims that children involved in intergenerational projects have better reading and communication skills, are more 'school-ready' and demonstrate more empathy. Recommendations include that every nursery, childminder, parent/toddler group and children's centre link with a local older people's care home or housing scheme and vice-versa.

Education

[Seminar proposals being accepted for learning conference](#)

Education Scotland is now accepting seminar proposals for the Scottish Learning Festival (SLF) 2019 conference programme, which will take place on Wednesday 25 and Thursday 26 September 2019 in Glasgow. This year's theme is 'Achieving Excellence and Equity', through creating a culture of empowerment that enables everyone involved in the system to contribute to the agenda of improvement; and the importance of wellbeing in developing a healthy, successful learning community.

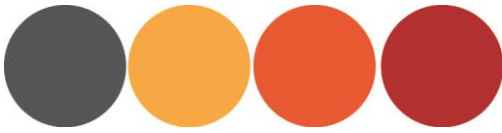
[Resources for English and Maths lessons to teach children how to cut sugar \(England\)](#)

Public Health England has published resources as part of its Change4Life campaign for use in England and Maths lessons to teach children to understand how much sugar is in their food and drink, and encourage making healthier swaps to reduce sugar intake, Nursery World reports. The Change4Life early years lesson plan includes activities encouraging children to spot sugar cube invaders, use maths skills to find healthier swaps, and learn a new rhyme.

Justice

[Research on children on remand \(England\)](#)

A research report has been published by Transform Justice, 'Path of little resistance: is pre-trial detention of children really a last resort?', examines data on children who are imprisoned before a court has found them innocent or guilty, known as remand, and the reasons why they are remanded. The report notes that there are many fewer children remanded today than ten years ago, but the proportion of the child custody population is higher and children are still being remanded for short periods,



sometimes “instead” of a short custodial sentence. In addition to uncovering current practice surrounding remanding children to custody, the report makes clear recommendations aimed at each group of adults involved in the process.

Looked After and Accommodated Children

[Focus on disability by Scottish Journal of Residential Child Care](#)

The Centre for excellence for looked after children in Scotland (Celcis) is drawing attention to the new issue of the Scottish Journal of Residential Child Care which focuses on perspectives and understandings of disability. Articles include:

- Social inclusion and intellectual disability in Ireland: Social inclusion co-ordinators’ perspectives on barriers and opportunities
- Awareness of and support for Speech, Language and Communication Needs in Children’s Hearings
- Costs, benefits and mechanisms of animal-assisted therapy: adopting a change in perspective
- Falling through the cracks: critical review of the deinstitutionalization process in post-socialist state

[Creative writing competition for children who have experienced the care system](#)

Coram Voice is holding a creative writing competition for children and young people up to 25 years old who have experience of the care system. The theme for 2019’s competition is ‘Growing up’ and is designed to promote a positive image by showcasing children and young people’s creativity and improving understanding of their experiences.

Mental Health

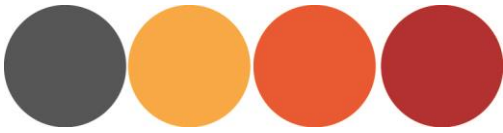
[Most young people with a mental health condition do not get treatment they need](#) (England)

The UK Parliament’s Public Accounts Committee has published a report on mental health services for children and young people, which states that only three in ten children and young people with a mental health condition received NHS-funded treatment in 2017-18 and many more faced ‘unacceptably long waits’ for treatment.

Other

[Annual returns live for service providers](#)

The Care Inspectorate’s annual return will be available from 4 to 15 February 2019 for service providers to complete. All service types must complete their annual returns electronically, using the Care Inspectorate’s eForms system. Even inactive services must submit an annual return.



[Social services awards now open for entries](#)

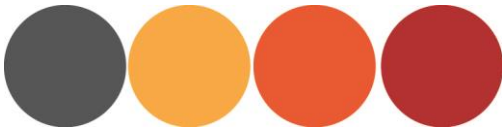
The Scottish Social Services Awards 2019 are now open for entries from people who are registered with the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) or who work for an organisation inspected by the Care Inspectorate. There are 10 categories, including a special Policy Focus award, and the entry deadline is 15 February 2019.

[Announcement of Chair of new Social Security Commission](#)

The Scottish Government has announced that the Chair of the new Social Security Commission will be Dr Sally Witcher OBE. The Scottish Commission on Social Security will provide independent and expert scrutiny of the Scottish social security system (including the benefit regulations).

[Guidance on the health impacts of screen time](#)

The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) has published 'The health impacts of screen time: a guide for clinicians and parents', which provides a summary of existing research on the health effects of screen time on children and young people, and outlines recommendations for health professionals and families on screen time use. The key messages include that the evidence base for a direct 'toxic' effect of screen time is contested, and the evidence of harm is often overstated, and that the RCPCH are unable to recommend a cut-off for children's screen time overall. The primary recommendation is that families should negotiate screen time limits with their children based upon the needs of an individual child, the ways in which screens are used and the degree to which use of screens appears to displace (or not) physical and social activities and sleep.



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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