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### **Additional Support Needs**

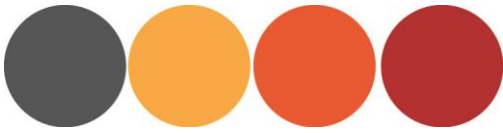
[Consultation on mandatory learning disability and autism training \(England\)](#)

The UK Government is consulting on mandatory learning disability and autism training for health and social care staff. The consultation, which closes on 12 April, seeks views on training and developing staff to better support people with a learning disability or autism.

### **Child Protection**

[Guidance on Child Protection Committee and Chief Officer](#)

The Scottish Government has published 'Protecting children and young people: Child Protection Committee and Chief Officer responsibilities'. Chief Officers have a pivotal role, both individually and collectively for the leadership, direction and scrutiny of child protection services. Child Protection Committees (CPCs) and partners are central to fostering an inter-agency approach and providing support for the development and delivery of processes, common standards, and continuous improvement. This document updates the previous 2005 guidance following a consultation with all CPCs in Scotland.



### [Regulation of social networks to keep children safe from abuse \(England\)](#)

The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) has published 'Taming the Wild West Web', a report on how they suggest social networks should be regulated to keep children safe from abuse. The report covers the reasons for regulating social networks, and the risks to children, as well as the suggested regulatory approach, minimum safeguarding standards, transparency and disclosure powers, and investigation, compliance and enforcement powers.

### [Politician calls for tougher sentencing in child cruelty cases \(England\)](#)

The Conservative MP Tom Tugendhat is calling for tougher sentences in child cruelty cases by introducing a ten-minute rule bill in the UK Parliament to allow judges the power to impose life sentences, and bring the sentencing powers for child cruelty cases in line with those for serious assaults on adults, Children & Young People Now reports. Mr Tugendhat has introduced the legislation, which he refers to as "Tony's law", after a baby who suffered life-changing injuries at the hands of his biological parents, when he was 41 days old. The bill was backed by MPs and will progress to a second reading.

## **Early Years and Childcare**

### [Children's thoughts on out of school care](#)

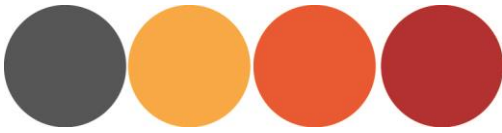
The Scottish Out of School Care Network has published the results of a survey of children's thoughts on out of school care. The survey asked questions such as the best thing about the children's out of school care, how it could be improved, and asked children to rate statements such as "I am quite happy at the club" and "The staff care about children in the club and listen to us."

### [Turning every day interaction with babies into brain building moments](#)

The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) has launched a campaign 'Look, Say, Sing, Play' to help parents turn every day interaction with their baby into brain building moments. The NSPCC states that almost two thirds of parents are unaware that back and forth interaction with their child from birth is good for their babies' social, emotional and cognitive development. Through the campaign, parents will be able to sign up for free weekly tips which are tailored to their child's age and they will be encouraged to take a look at what their baby is focusing on and how they react, say what they are doing and copy the sounds their baby makes, sing along to their favourite tune or play simple games and see what their baby enjoys.

### [Joint project to identify areas of work pressures \(England\)](#)

The Pre-School Learning Alliance, Department for Education, and Ofsted will undertake a joint project to tackle workload pressures on early years staff, identifying areas where work pressures could be reduced and areas where misconceptions about paperwork and administration requirements may be creating unnecessary



work, Nursery World reports. Focus groups will be held over the next month to gather views from practitioners across the early years sector on current workload demands. A sector-wide online survey in the spring will give all practitioners the chance to share their views.

### [Workforce survey launches for employers and practitioners \(England\)](#)

The National Day Nurseries Association (NDNA) has launched its workforce survey with two sets of questions aimed at employers and practitioners. Purnima Tanuku OBE, Chief Executive of NDNA, reportedly said, “These surveys are just for nurseries in England because, with big changes on the horizon in Scotland and Wales, we are developing separate surveys for those two countries which will be launched later.” Deadline for filling in both surveys is 5pm on Thursday 14 March.

## **Health**

### [Young people sought to help change how healthcare is delivered](#)

Young Scot are recruiting young people to form a new volunteer Participation Panel to identify important issues for young people and work with the Scottish Government’s Technology Enabled Care (TEC) project to come up with new ideas, innovations and recommendations for shaping and improving digital healthcare. The Panel will be looking at how the Scottish Government can use digital technology to address health and wellbeing issues today, and futureproof health care for generations to come. Applications are open to everyone aged 11-25 in Scotland, no experience required.

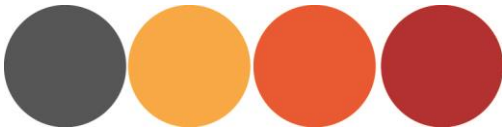
## **Justice**

### [Council first in Europe to give ‘safe leave’ to domestic abuse victims](#)

South Ayrshire Council is believed to be the first in Europe to introduce a new ‘safe leave’ policy – inspired by New Zealand's Domestic Violence Victims Protection Bill – that will give employees paid time off to get the help and support they need for themselves and their families. It will now be incorporated into the Council's Special Leave Policy, providing employees experiencing domestic abuse with up to 10 days’ paid safe leave, which can be used as required – based on the individual's needs. The leave will allow employees to attend medical appointments and counselling, attend legal proceedings, seek safe housing and visit support agencies.

### [Scottish Government highlights domestic abuse consultation](#)

Cabinet Secretary for Social Security and Older People Shirley-Anne Somerville has highlighted the ongoing consultation on improving multi-agency risk assessment and interventions for victims of domestic abuse, during a visit to Women’s Aid Western Isles. The consultation, which looks at the way that police, local authorities, health and social care, the third sector and other relevant organisations work together to assess the risk of the most serious levels of harm, will close on 1 April. It is hoped



the consultation will identify best practice that can be shared and whether there is a need for a more consistent approach across the country.

## **Looked After and Accommodated Children**

### [Children's Commissioner on protecting the human rights of care experienced people](#)

The Children & Young People's Commissioner Scotland has written a blog for Care Day 2019 on how Scotland needs to get better at protecting the human rights of its care experienced people. The Commissioner suggests that the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child need to be brought into domestic law, that local and national government need to look at how continuing care provisions operate, and that more needs to be done to make sure that siblings can contact each other.

## **Mental Health**

### [Survey of young people and mental health \(England\)](#)

An NHS survey of young people in England on mental health issues has reportedly found a rise in the proportion of people under 16 years old experiencing any mental disorder, including things like anxiety and depression as well as behavioural disorders and hyperactivity, the BBC reports.

## **Other**

### [SASW calls for social workers to be exempt from workplace parking levy](#)

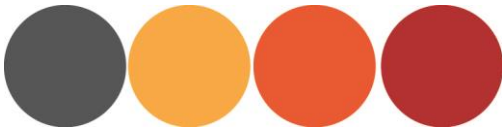
The Scottish Association of Social Work (SASW) has written to Finance Secretary Derek Mackay calling for an exemption to the proposed workplace parking levy for social workers. The proposed levy is part of a range of measures announced in the Scottish Government's agreement with the Green Party regarding the draft Budget. SASW National Director Trish Hall argues in her letter that there should be consistency between NHS workers and social workers in application of the levy.

### [Gordon Paterson appointed Chief Officer of Perth and Kinross HSCP](#)

Chief Inspector (Adult Services) Gordon Paterson has been appointed as Chief Officer of Perth and Kinross Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP). Gordon will take up the new post at the end of March.

### [Practice framework and handbook to support a strengths-based approach \(England\)](#)

A practice framework and handbook to support social workers and social care professionals in applying a strengths-based approach has been published by the UK Government. The resource follows a 2017 report on a strengths-based social work practice workshop.



### [Campaign to encourage young people to become care workers \(England\)](#)

The BBC reports on the launch of a campaign to encourage young people under 40 years old to become care workers, therapists and activity co-ordinators. The 'Every Day is Different' campaign will focus on the rewarding and diverse nature of care work with personal stories of young people who have built careers in the care sector, and highlighting the variety of roles available.

#### **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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