



[Additional Support Needs](#)

[Early Years and Childcare](#)

[Fostering and Adoption](#)

[Health](#)

[Human Rights](#)

[Justice](#)

[Looked After and
Accommodated Children](#)

[Other](#)

Additional Support Needs

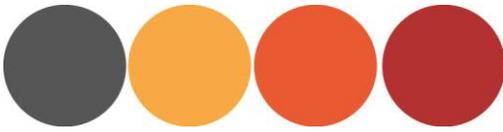
[Updated presumption of mainstreaming guidance](#)

The Scottish Government has published new guidance on presumption of mainstreaming, including for the first time a Scottish definition of inclusion and practical guidance to deliver inclusion in schools. Research on the learning experiences of young people with additional support needs has also been published, which shows pupils at both mainstream and special schools generally felt positive about their experience.

Early Years and Childcare

[Number of registered childminders drops \(England\)](#)

Children & Young People Now reports on early years statistics by the regulator Ofsted, reportedly showing that since September 2015, the number of registered childminders has dropped by 8,200 (17 per cent). The online publication comments that early years groups are saying that lack of funding is a key reason for the decrease and why so few people are looking to take up a childminding role.



Fostering and Adoption

[Statistics on fostering and adoption](#)

The Care Inspectorate has published 'Fostering and Adoption 2017-18 Statistical Bulletin', setting out data collected from service providers in their annual return. The data shows that the quality of care experienced by children accessing fostering and adoption is high, with 97% graded 'good' or better at inspection. The report also notes that a quarter of all children approved for adoption in Scotland had been waiting for more than a year to be matched with approved adopters.

Health

[Healthy Body Happy Me campaign focuses on oral health](#)

The National Day Nurseries Association (NDNA) has highlighted its annual Healthy Body Happy Me campaign running from 25 – 29 March 2019. This year's campaign theme is oral health and the NDNA has been working in partnership with the British Dental Association to create resources to be used by nurseries to help educate children about oral health.

Human Rights

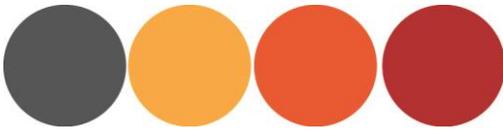
[Commissioner asks for clarity on introduction of UNCRC into Scots law](#)

The Children & Young People's Commissioner Scotland has written to the Minister for Children and Young People Maree Todd MSP asking for her to be clear on when and how the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) will be incorporated into Scots law. The Commissioner notes that in the 2018/19 Programme for Government, the First Minister committed to incorporate the principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child into law, but to date there has been no clear outline of timescales for consultation around incorporation.

Justice

[Introduction of legislation to end the physical punishment of children \(Wales\)](#)

The Welsh Government has introduced the Children (Abolition of Defence of Reasonable Punishment) (Wales) Bill to the National Assembly, legislation to end the physical punishment of children and ensure that children have the same protection from physical punishment as adults. The Bill will do this by abolishing the common law defence of reasonable punishment so that any adult acting in a parental capacity cannot use it as a defence if accused of assault or battery against a child – meaning they can no longer legally physically punish a child.



Looked After and Accommodated Children

[Statistics on looked after children](#)

Scotland's Chief Statistician has published 'Children's Social Work Statistics 2017-18', which includes information on children who were looked after, on the child protection register, or in secure care accommodation. The statistics show that two percent of children in Scotland were being looked after by local authorities or on the child protection register on July 31 2018, foster care remains the most common accommodation for looked after children, and in the first collection of Continuing Care information a total of 208 young people were recorded as being in Continuing Care in 2017-18.

[Inquiry into children missing from care to be launched \(England\)](#)

The Guardian reports that UK Parliament MPs are to launch an inquiry into the record number of children missing from care in England. A Parliamentary question by Ann Coffey MP, who heads the all-parliamentary group for runaway and missing children and adults, reportedly found that there has been an increase of 1,000 children going missing from care since 2015, after being moved to new areas under an 'out of area placement', up to 1,990 in 2018 from 990 in 2015.

Other

[Children's services planning: provision of statutory guidance - consultation](#)

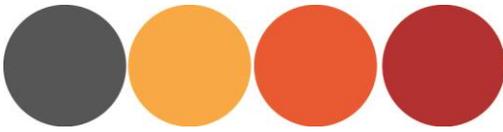
The Scottish Government has launched a consultation on whether the content, scope and format of the statutory guidance on children's services planning are still helpful and fit for purpose. The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, placed a requirement on Local Authorities and Health Boards to present evidence to the Scottish Government in a Children Services Plan which clearly sets out and demonstrates the actions planned, taken and delivered to improve outcomes for children and young people in their area. The consultation closes on 17 June 2019.

[Estimates of people living in poverty](#)

The Scottish Government has published 'Poverty & Income Inequality in Scotland: 2015-18', presenting three year averaged estimates of the percentage of people, children, working-age adults and pensioners in Scotland living in poverty, and other statistics on household income and income inequality. These estimates are used to monitor progress in reducing poverty and income inequality. Child poverty rates had been falling for many years, but began to rise again since 2010-13 (after housing costs) and 2011-14 (before housing costs).

[Briefing on Scottish child poverty targets](#)

The Resolution Foundation has published 'Wrong direction: Can Scotland hit its child poverty targets?', looking at the targets for the reduction of child poverty, covering relative poverty, absolute poverty, material deprivation and persistent poverty. The



report also examines projections of the proportion of children living in relative poverty, actions that may affect these projections and targets, and concludes that, “as things stand, in Scotland – as in the UK as a whole – relative child poverty is very likely to go up rather than down.”

[Report on efforts to mainstream equality, diversity and inclusion across SCRA](#)

The Scottish Children’s Reporter Administration (SCRA) has published their ‘Equality Outcomes and Mainstreaming Progress Report’, looking at the work they have been doing to mainstream equality diversity and inclusion across SCRA and all of their services. The report also includes two supporting documents – one provides a summary of activities to achieve SCRA’s equality outcomes and the second report provides information about Employee Monitoring Data.

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.