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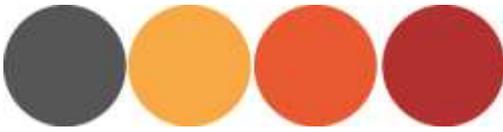
Additional Support Needs

[Children's Services Coalition highlights increase in ASN identification](#)

Figures suggesting an increase in the number of Scottish pupils identified with additional support needs (ASN) have been highlighted by the Scottish Children's Services Coalition (SCSC), The Scotsman reports. Based on analysis of the annual Scottish Government Pupil Census, the figures suggest that between 2012 and 2018 the number of pupils identified with autism in publicly funded schools increased by 101%, those with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties by 86%, those with physical health problems by over 98%, and those with mental health problems by over 252%. Pupils with communication support needs rose by 293%. The SCSC said it was positive that identification of those with ASN had improved but stressed the need to provide appropriate care and support for those who need it.

[Masterclass events on supporting children with autism](#)

Masterclass events on supporting children with autism are to be hosted by autism expert Jim Clark in partnership with the Scottish Out of School Care Network (SOSCN). The masterclass events, taking place in Glasgow on 5 June and Edinburgh on 11 June, will explore how children can be better supported in out of school care by suggesting various strategies and approaches with particular focus on the environment, resources and adult-child relationships.



Child Protection

[Advance redress payment scheme for historical childhood abuse survivors](#)

Survivors of childhood abuse which occurred in care can now apply for advanced redress payments, the Scottish Government has announced. Deputy First Minister John Swinney told Parliament that the Advance Payment Scheme comes ahead of the planned legislation for a statutory redress scheme, due to be passed before March 2021. The advance payments, open to people who have a terminal illness or are aged 70 or over, have been set at a flat rate of £10,000 and will be ex gratia and discretionary.

[Petitioner calling for state school abuse inquiry gives evidence to Parliament](#)

A petitioner calling for an inquiry into child abuse in state schools has given evidence in the Scottish Parliament, The Herald reports. Speaking to the Public Petitions Committee, Maryanne Pugsley said she wanted to raise the issue after she was sexually and emotionally abused by a teacher in a state school. The ongoing Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry is looking at the abuse of children in care, including state, private and independent boarding schools. Ms Pugsley argued that the exclusion of state schools was “unfair” and also suggested the current law of corroboration serves as a further barrier to justice for victims of historic abuse.

Disability

[New guidance to support disabled children, young people and families](#)

Guidance to support disabled children, young people and their families has been published by the Scottish Government. The guidance, developed following a recent consultation, is designed to provide “clear, accessible information on national policies, entitlements, rights and the different options for support”, using real life stories of disabled children and young people.

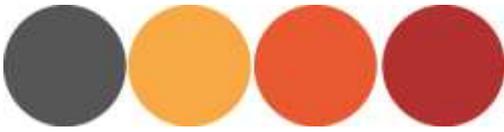
Early Years and Childcare

[SCMA and St Andrew’s First Aid offer first aid training](#)

The Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) has partnered with St Andrew’s First Aid to offer baby and child and paediatric first aid courses. SCMA members can now access Baby and Child First Aid and Paediatric First Aid courses.

[Interim results from STEM research project in SOSCN](#)

Interim results from a training and research project on the gender and disadvantage gap in STEM have been published by the Scottish Out of School Network (SOSCN). The project, funded through the Scottish Government Children, Young People and Families Early Intervention Project Fund, is seeking to find out if training staff in out of school care with new STEM skills in playful creative activities could make a



positive difference for children over eight. Following the first year of courses and research, there was a shift from 62% to 84% of children agreeing they know what STEM means before and after the STEM activities, while children's confidence in doing STEM activities increased from 70% pre-activity to 83% post-activity.

[Latest newsletter from out of school care policy team](#)

The latest newsletter has been published by the Scottish Government's out of school care policy team. The newsletter provides an update on key issues raised at recent regional events, held in partnership with the SOSCN, to help shape the forthcoming framework for out of school care.

[Project to encourage intergenerational 'get togethers'](#)

A programme encouraging nurseries and other settings to hold 'get togethers' to connect people of all ages through growing, cooking and eating food together has secured lottery funding. Food for Life, a Soil Association project, will provide support and free resources for those looking to host Get Together and will also organise three annual events as part of the programme.

[Project to support more men into early years \(England\)](#)

A project to support more men into early years careers has been backed by the UK Government. The Fatherhood Initiative will provide practical resources like mythbusters, 'how-to' guides and online content to support male recruitment into the profession, as well as online peer support for men already working in the sector.

Education

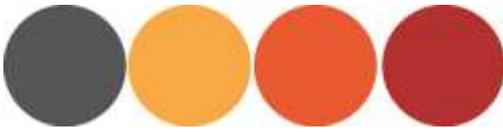
[Pilot scheme to build connections between schools and youth work](#)

A pilot programme to help schools and youth work organisations to work together to help close the attainment gap has been launched by the Scottish Government. The Youth Work and Schools Partnership programme, to be delivered by YouthLink Scotland, will offer young people the opportunity to develop professional relationships with adults and provide learning opportunities outwith the home and school environment.

Health

[New WHO guidelines on physical activity, sedentary behaviour and sleep for children](#)

New guidance on physical activity, sedentary behaviour and sleep for children under five years of age has been published by the World Health Organization (WHO). Recommendations include no more than one hour of sedentary screen time a day for two year olds and at least 180 minutes of physical activity for one to four year olds, including 60 minutes of moderate intensity for three to four year olds.



[Figures on numbers missing out on MMR vaccine highlighted](#)

The BBC has highlighted UNICEF figures suggesting more than half a million children in the UK missed out on their first dose of the MMR vaccine between 2010 and 2017. According to the charity, a mixture of complacency, misinformation, scepticism about immunisations, and a lack of access has led to inadequate vaccination rates globally.

[European Immunisation Week \(24 – 30 April 2019\)](#)

Every year, the WHO European Region marks European Immunisation Week to promote immunisation as vital to preventing diseases and protecting life, and it runs from 24 to 30 April 2019. This year the campaign aims to raise awareness of the benefits of vaccination and to celebrate the 'vaccine heroes' who contribute to protecting lives through vaccination.

Looked After and Accommodated Children

[£3m scheme to support safe and supportive housing for care leavers](#)

A £3m scheme to provide safe and supportive housing for care leavers has been launched by the Life Changes Trust. The Home and Belonging initiative is designed to provide an opportunity for housing providers, designers, local authorities, creative professionals and those who work with young people to create a safe, welcoming and personal spaces for care experienced people. Eleven projects from across Scotland will benefit from the funding.

[Action for Children launches app to support children in care to communicate](#)

A new app to help children in care share their feelings and communicate with their social workers has been launched by Action for Children. The Mind of My Own app provides a platform for children to send messages at any time which are then assigned to the appropriate social worker. The charity has begun introducing the technology to fostering services in England and some residential services in Wales.

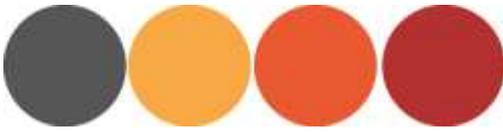
Mental Health

[Measures to support young people's mental health announced](#)

Measures to improve and support the mental health of young people have been set out by the Scottish Government. As announced previously, £90,000 will be provided to produce advice for young people on the healthy use of social media and screen time. A review of evidence on the effects of screen use on sleep and the implications of this for mental health will also be commissioned.

[Rapid literature review into worsening mental wellbeing among adolescent girls](#)

The findings of a rapid literature review exploring trends in mental wellbeing among adolescent girls have been published by the Scottish Government. The paper, by an



intern at the Scottish Graduate School of Social Science, summaries research suggesting a worsening of mental wellbeing among adolescent girls in Scotland and explores possible factors contributing to this. The review touches on issues such as social media, sleep, body image and school-related pressures.

Other

[SASW statement on West Dunbartonshire social work issues](#)

The Scottish Association of Social Workers (SASW) has released a statement on issues raised by social workers in West Dunbartonshire. SASW said: “New information has come to light over the weekend in relation to a child within the local authority being left to sleep on a sofa for three months at a residential unit”. It is noted that within West Dunbartonshire social workers have voted for strike action.

[SSSC launches videos on digital technology risks](#)

A series of digital videos exploring common scenarios where a person may be at risk using digital technologies and services has been launched by the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC). The first three videos focus on mobile working, technical support calls and supporting vulnerable people in their use of social media.

[Survey for third sector staff on the Carers \(Scotland\) Act](#)

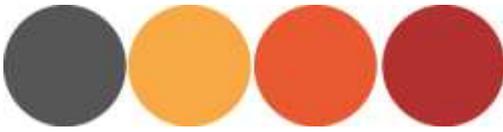
The Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (the ALLIANCE) is highlighting a survey being run by the Coalition of Carers in Scotland on the awareness of third sector staff of the Carers (Scotland) Act. The Coalition of Carers in Scotland are funded to support third sector organisations in Scotland with the implementation of the Carers (Scotland) Act. The survey runs until 10 May 2019 and will help them understand how best to support third sector and community based organisations.

[National outcome framework for volunteering](#)

A national outcome framework for volunteering has been published by the Scottish Government. The framework is designed to: set out “a coherent and compelling narrative for volunteering”; define the key outcomes desired for volunteering in Scotland over the next ten years; identify the key data and evidence that will inform, indicate and drive performance at a national and local level; and enable informed debate and decision about the optimal combination of programmes, investments and interventions. A [literature review](#) and [research summary](#) have also been published.

[Plans for Referendum Bill and Citizens’ Assembly announced by First Minister](#)

The Scottish Government will table a framework bill for a second referendum during the current Parliament in the event that Scotland leaves the EU. A Citizens’ Assembly will also be established to seek views on how Scotland’s constitutional future.



[Academic suggests moving on from single-word inspection judgements \(England\)](#)

An article suggesting “we need to move beyond the problematic use of single-word judgements” in relation to Ofsted inspections has been published by Community Care. David Wilkins, a senior lecturer in social work at Cardiff University and assistant director of the Children’s Social Care Research and Development Centre, concludes: “Inspection is an important function of public protection – although I question whether it can be both a function of protection and a ‘force for improvement’. In our current study, we’re not seeing any evidence that authorities improve in relation to outcome measures between inspections.”

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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