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## Disability

### [Disability charities launch formal partnership](#)

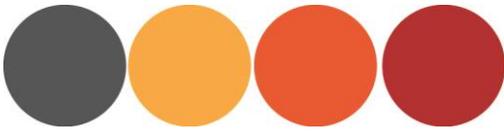
ENABLE Scotland and Sense Scotland have formally partnered as the Piper Group, Third Force News reports. The two disability charities will retain their brands and missions but the new group will share resources and oversee back office functions including IT, HR, learning and development, digital, finance and payroll departments.

## Early Years and Childcare

### [Guidance documents on 'Funding Follows the Child'](#)

The Scottish Government has published guidance documents on Funding Follows the Child.

- [Funding follows the child and the national standard for early learning and childcare providers: transition options guidance on contracting](#) - this document outlines options for local authorities to consider when developing their processes to contract with private and third sector providers
- [Funding follows the child and the national standard for early learning and childcare providers: guidance for setting sustainable rates from August 2020](#) - this document provides guidance to enable local authorities to set a sustainable rate that is paid to funded providers in the private and third sectors
- [Funding follows the child and the national standard for early learning and childcare providers: guidance on criteria 7 - business sustainability](#) - this guidance will support implementation of the business sustainability criteria of the national standard



## **Education**

### [Reasons for continuation of grading system \(England\)](#)

The education regulator in England, Ofsted, has published 'Retaining the current grading system in education: Some arguments and evidence', setting out their reasons for continuing to use their current four-point grading system. The publication explains their grading system, sets out the main criticisms of the system, and clarifies what they consider the advantages of retaining the current grading system.

## **Health**

### [World Hand Hygiene Day – 5 May](#)

The theme for World Hand Hygiene Day, taking place on 5 May, is 'Clean care for all – it's in your hands'. The day promotes the practice of hand hygiene in all care settings. Health Protection Scotland has given its backing to the campaign and undertaken a several activities to promote the day.

## **Human Rights**

### [Incorporation of the UNCRC in Scots law within two years](#)

The Children's & Young People's Commissioner Scotland has welcomed the announcement that the Scottish Government will incorporate the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) into Scots law by 2021. Commissioner Bruce Adamson is quoted as stating that, "Incorporation of the UNCRC will ensure a proactive culture of children's rights across local and national government, giving children a greater say in decision making and providing them with redress if their rights are breached."

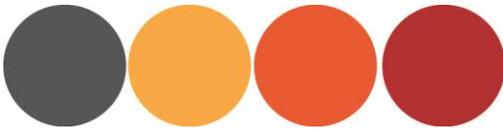
## **Justice**

### [Forum to consider raising age for criminal responsibility again](#)

The Scottish Government's Children's Minister has announced that a new forum will be set up to consider again the raising of the age of criminal responsibility, the BBC reports. Legislation is currently progressing through the Scottish Parliament to raise the age at which children can be held responsible for crime from eight to 12 years old. The new forum will look at whether this age threshold should be raised again within three years, as during discussion of the current Age of Criminal Responsibility (Scotland) Bill there have been calls to raise the age to 14 or 16 years old.

### [Justice Secretary clarifies timescales for Scotland-specific Barnahus standards](#)

Justice Secretary Humza Yousaf has clarified plans and timescales around the development of Scotland-specific standards for Barnahus. Based on the European PROMISE Quality Standards, the work will be led by the Care Inspectorate and



Healthcare Improvement Scotland with engagement from across health, justice and children's services. A short scoping report will be published for consultation in June 2019, with work to develop the detailed standards to begin in August 2019. An initial draft will be available for wider consultation by the end of 2019, with the final standards due for publication by early summer 2020.

## **Looked After and Accommodated Children**

### [The 'language of care' and the impact on children](#)

The manager of a therapeutic fostering service writes in *Community Care* about the language of care spoken by professionals and the impact this can have on looked after children in long-term foster families. Following discussion of the consequences of using professional jargon in front of children, and the need to reflect the language of childhood, the article concludes by stating that, "It's time for a long overdue major rethink of what being in 'long term foster care' really means to the children in foster families and how we promote belonging and secure childhoods and recovery from trauma when a return to their birth families is not in their best interests."

## **Mental Health**

### [Number of inpatient beds for young people with mental health issues](#)

Children and Young People Now reports on research examining the number of inpatient beds for young people with mental health issues, comparing EU countries. The Milestone Study reportedly shows that the UK has a rate of 9.4 beds per 100,000 young people, and 4.5 child and adolescent psychiatrists per 100,000 young people.

## **Nutrition**

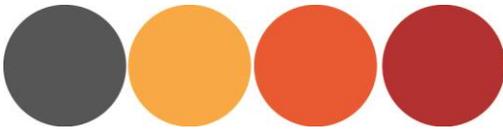
### [Recommendations from inquiry into child food insecurity](#)

The Children's Future Food Inquiry has published the results of their inquiry into child food insecurity, focusing on three food settings of pre-school, school and home, and examining the policies and programmes in place that are intended to support children to eat well. The report also analyses the views of children and young people living in poverty, makes recommendations to tackle food insecurity and concludes that an independent watchdog for children's food should be established immediately.

## **Other**

### [Social Mobility Commission reports](#)

The Social Mobility Commission has published their sixth annual report with recommendations for each life stage which aim to reduce the social mobility 'Power Gap'. Recommendations for the early years of zero to five years old includes an extension of the funded 30-hour childcare offer to all parents earning the equivalent



of eight hours per week. A section on Scotland and Wales assesses progress in improving social mobility but does not make recommendations.

#### [Iriss seeking ideas for evidence summaries](#)

Iriss is asking for ideas to be the focus of future evidence summaries on social services related topics. Iriss Insights look at an issue and draw out implications for practice and policy, with an intention to support debate, discussion and reflection. Any ideas can be submitted to Iriss with a short outline by Friday 17 May.

#### [SSSC encourages applications for leadership programme](#)

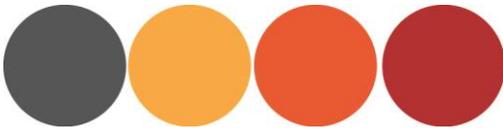
The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) is encouraging senior leaders in social services to apply for the 2019-20 Leading for the Future programme. Leading for the Future is a package of leadership and management development, run in partnership with health boards, local authorities and other public service organisations, for those in senior leadership roles across health, social care and partner organisations. The deadline for applications is 30 May 2019 at 12.00 noon.

#### [Video shows what to expect at SSSC hearing](#)

The SSSC has produced a video to show social service workers and witnesses what it's like if they attend a SSSC hearing at their offices in Dundee. The video aims to help those attending hearings get a better idea of what happens when they arrive, the rooms they may visit, who will be there and what they do.

#### [SPSO consults on draft National Whistleblowing Standards](#)

A consultation on a set of draft National Whistleblowing Standards has been launched by the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman (SPSO). The Standards are being developed ahead of the introduction of the new role of the Independent National Whistleblowing Officer (INWO), which is to be undertaken by the SPSO. The consultation on the draft Standards will run until 28 June.



## **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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