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Child Protection

[Consultation on clinical pathway for children who have disclosed sexual abuse](#)

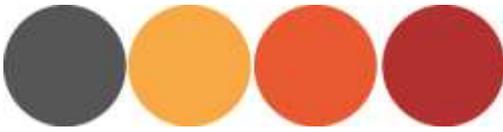
A consultation to inform Scotland's first clinical pathway for children and young people who have disclosed child sexual abuse has been launched by the Scottish Government. The pathway will provide guidance to professionals in the NHS, local authorities and integration joint boards in relation to the journey a child should take through the healthcare service and the standard of care, information and support they should expect to receive. The deadline for responses is 30 July.

[Children in Scotland event on identifying and responding to CSE](#)

Children in Scotland is to host a training event on identifying and responding to child sexual exploitation (CSE). The event will be hosted by Daljeet Dagon, taking place in Glasgow on 4 June.

[Minutes from National Child Protection Leadership Group meetings](#)

Minutes from recent meetings of the National Child Protection Leadership Group have been published by the Scottish Government. The minutes, covering meetings, held in [October 2018](#) and [January 2019](#). Include discussion of the development of a leadership offer to support local partnerships to fully implement GIRFEC.



Disability

[Reluctance to speak to deaf children contributing to loneliness, charity says](#)

A reluctance to speak to deaf people is contributing to feelings of isolation and loneliness among the deaf community, particularly children, according to the National Deaf Children's Society. The charity has published the results of a YouGov survey, conducted to mark Deaf Awareness Week (5 – 12 May) suggesting that 52% of adults in the UK do not feel confident about communicating with deaf people. The survey also suggests that a limited understanding of deafness is contributing to nervousness around deaf people. The National Deaf Children's Society has highlighted tips to help deaf children feel included, such as speaking clearly and naturally, using visual clues and not covering your mouth.

Early Learning and Childcare

[Childminding Week 2019 continues until 12 May](#)

The Scottish Childminding Association has highlighted Childminding Week 2019 as it continues until 12 May. Calling for people to #CheerforChildminding, the event aims to raise the profile and improve recognition of childminding in Scotland, culminating in a Wild Day Out at Blair Drummond Safari and Adventure Park on Sunday.

[Men in the Early Years campaign and charter launched](#)

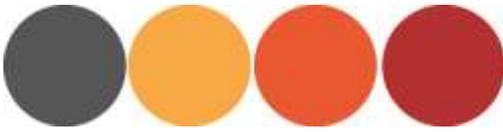
A website for early years settings to sign up to a charter to increase the number of men working in the sector has been launched by the Fatherhood Institute. The site and charter are part of the Men in the Early Years (MITEY) campaign, funded by the UK Government. Visitors to the website can also download MITEY's 10 myths about men in the early years, while a number of free resources for men, careers advisors and others in the sector will be added to the website throughout the year.

[Well qualified staff can maintain quality in ELC despite poorer ratios, study finds](#)

Well qualified staff in early learning and childcare (ELC) settings can maintain quality despite poorer staff to child ratios, according to a new study. The Oxford University research, published in *Frontiers in Education*, involved 600 ELC settings for three to four year olds in England and found that better qualified staff maintains the quality of state-funded early learning and childcare (ELC) settings, despite less favourable staff to child ratios than private or voluntary services.

[Review of integrated early childhood service models announced \(England\)](#)

A review of children's centres and other models of integrated early childhood services has been announced by the UK Government, Children & Young People Now reports. The review, to be carried out by the Early Intervention Foundation, will review evidence for different models of services, develop practical resources on applying new learning, and share good practice with leaders and commissioners.



Health

[Case studies sought to showcase health inequalities work](#)

NHS Health Scotland is looking for examples based on the following inequalities statements: [Maximising the role of NHS Scotland in reducing health inequalities](#) and [The role of Health and Social Care Partnerships in reducing health inequalities](#). The statements provide a framework of practical actions that allow health and social care planners and managers to consider health inequalities in the early stages of developing strategic plans and priorities. NHS Health Scotland is keen to gather examples of work that Health Boards and Health and Social Care Partnerships are doing to address health inequalities. Examples should be sent to arma.sayed-rafiq@nhs.net to discuss further.

[Green Book chapter on influenza updated](#)

Chapter 19 of the Green Book, which addresses influenza in the UK for public health professionals, has been updated by Public Health England. As reported by Health Protection Scotland, the recent update includes changes to the asthma and egg allergy sections and added information on newly licensed influenza vaccines.

Justice

[Vulnerable Witnesses Bill passed by MSPs](#)

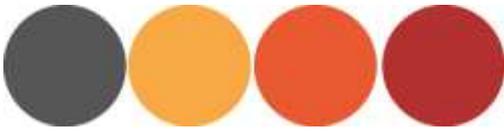
A Bill setting out reforms aimed at improving provisions to assist vulnerable witnesses in giving evidence in criminal cases has been passed unanimously by MSPs. The [Vulnerable Witnesses \(Criminal Evidence\) \(Scotland\) Bill](#) has a particular focus on greater use of pre-recorded evidence at trial. Following the Justice Committee's Stage 1 report on the Bill, the Scottish Government said the Care Inspectorate and Healthcare Improvement Scotland would lead on the development of Scotland-specific standards for the use of the Barnahus approach for child witnesses. The Justice Secretary recently wrote to the Committee setting out a [timetable](#) for this work.

[MSPs agree Bill to raise age of criminal responsibility to 12](#)

Proposed legislation to raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility has been passed by MSPs following a unanimous vote in the Scottish Parliament. The [Age of Criminal Responsibility \(Scotland\) Bill](#) will increase the age of criminal responsibility from eight to 12. During Stage 3 debate on the Bill, Children's Minister Maree Todd confirmed that the Scottish Government is to set up an advisory group to consider whether the age of criminal responsibility should be raised further, to 14 or 16, as suggested by several campaigners and MSPs considering the new legislation.

[Project wins funding to change approach to children at risk of offending](#)

A project designed to re-shape the design and delivery of preventative services with children and young people in South Lanarkshire who are at risk of offending has



been successful in applying for National Lottery Community Funding. The Centre for Youth and Criminal Justice, Action for Children, South Lanarkshire Council and the Dartington Service Design Lab are partners on the 'Inclusion as Prevention' project, which aims to shift from a crisis driven approach when a young person becomes involved in offending, to identify and intervene at an earlier point in their lives.

[Information sheet on transfer of Community Court Orders across the UK](#)

An information sheet detailing what's involved in the transfer of Community Court Orders across the UK has been published by the Centre for Youth and Criminal Justice (CYCJ). The paper explores the legislation, processes and key people involved when a Community Order is transferred to or from another UK jurisdiction.

Looked After and Accommodated Children

[Survey for social workers to inform Independent Care Review](#)

A survey to capture the views of social workers to inform the Independent Care Review has been launched. The survey, commissioned in partnership with Social Work Scotland, aims to provide change to comment on what is working well and the challenges faced by professionals in Scotland's care system. The survey is confidential but social workers who complete the survey will be asked if they would like to explore the survey's themes and questions in two further discussion groups. The survey closes on 31 May 2019.

[Councils to receive rate rise to support unaccompanied asylum-seeking children](#)

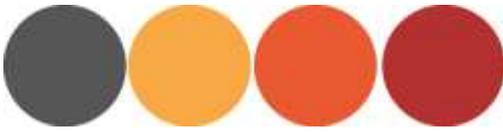
Local authorities supporting unaccompanied asylum-seeking children are to receive an increased day rate, the UK Government has announced. Immigration Minister Caroline Nokes said a new rate of £114 per child per night would apply for care provided from 1 April 2019, comparing to the previous range of £71 to £95.

[Evidence summary on healing environments for children who have experienced trauma](#)

An evidence summary on the elements of a healing environment for children who have experienced trauma has been published by Iriss. The summary was developed following a search of academic research and grey literature on looked after children and residential child care design published since 2000.

[Evidence summary on schools and early intervention to prevent children entering care](#)

An evidence summary on how schools can support early intervention to prevent children and young people from entering care has also been published by Iriss. The summary was developed following a search of academic research and grey literature on early intervention and children and young people published within the last five years.



[Who Cares? Scotland responds to children missing from care figures](#)

Who Cares? Scotland has responded to figures showing the number of children in care recorded as missing in 2018. Figures obtained by the Scottish Conservatives from Police Scotland showed 1,935 cases of children in care being reported as missing in 2018. Highlighting evidence on the reasons children in care run away and the impact of subsequent police involvement in their lives, Who Cares? Scotland Chief Executive Duncan Dunlop said: “It is only by listening to Care Experienced people and respecting their perspective that we can understand what is happening and change it.”

[Overview of literature on role of mentoring in relation to transitions](#)

A document providing a short overview of literature on adult-child mentoring and coaching relationships within the context of young people moving on from care has been published by the Centre for Excellence for Looked After Children in Scotland (CELCIS). The focus of the paper is the focus on understanding the transitions of looked after young people and exploring the role that mentoring relationships can play in these transitions.

[Latest issue of Scottish Journal of Residential Child Care](#)

The latest edition of the Scottish Journal of Residential Child Care has been published by CELCIS. The journal includes a mixture of peer-reviewed articles, commentaries and book reviews, leading with an article arguing that children in care “need adults who care for them to help them to know and accept love by overcoming their barriers against it”. The next issue will be published to coincide with the 20th Scottish Institute of Residential Child Care Conference on 4-5 June.

Mental Health

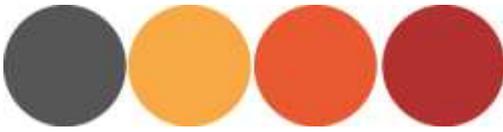
[Links between teenage use of social media and life satisfaction small, study finds](#)

The links between the use of social media and the life satisfaction of teenagers are small, according to a study of 12,000 adolescents published in the PNAS journal. According to the study, conducted by researchers at Oxford University, the “relations linking social media use and life satisfaction” are “more nuanced than previously assumed”, with most effects “tiny-arguably trivial”.

Other

[Research project on experiences of SDS](#)

Self Directed Support Scotland and the Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (the ALLIANCE) are running a research project called ‘My Support My Choice: user experiences of Self-directed Support (SDS) in Scotland’, funded by the Scottish Government. The research project will ask about the experiences of social care users and their families, and examine local authority assessment, information and continual support practices in relation to SDS. They are looking to hear from people



who use social care and Self-directed Support or have been assessed for social care in the last 12 months.

[Children and Young People's Evidence Bank launched by Children in Scotland](#)

An online resource capturing the voices of children and young people on a range of subjects has been launched by Children in Scotland. Developed through discussion with the Corra Foundation and with funding from the National Third Sector GIRFEC Project, the Children and Young People's Evidence Bank holds a library of reports, quotes and research findings sharing the views of children and young people, searchable by theme.

[Project to provide tool for newly qualified practitioners to support evidence-informed practice](#)

A project seeking to equip newly qualified practitioners with skills and confidence to access evidence relevant for practice, improvement and learning has been launched by Iriss. Navigating Evidence will see the creation of a tool that supports practitioner knowledge of, and influences their attitudes around, the importance of evidence-informed practice in the first year.

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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