



Child Protection

[Committee endorses Bill to end physical punishment of children](#)

A committee at the Scottish Parliament has given its support to a proposed Bill designed to end the physical punishment of children. The [Children \(Equal Protection from Assault\) \(Scotland\) Bill](#), introduced by Green MSP John Finnie, will remove from Scots Law the defence of “reasonable chastisement”, which may be used in assault cases where a parent or carer has hit, smacked or otherwise physically punished a child. In its Stage 1 report, the Equalities and Human Rights Committee concluded that changing the law would bring Scotland into line with international Human Rights obligations, improve children’s protection, and be a catalyst for a positive change in culture. The Committee did not believe the law change would lead to a notable increase in the number of families brought into the criminal justice system or infringe upon the right to family life. Two Conservative MSPs on the Committee dissented from the report.

[Trauma training programme extended](#)

Advanced training for frontline workers to recognise and respond to the signs and impacts of trauma in childhood will be rolled out in three pilot areas. The National Trauma Training Programme, to be rolled out in Glasgow, Midlothian and Argyll and Bute, gives frontline workers a better understanding of the needs of children and adults who have been affected by traumatic experiences. By March 2021, at least 5,000 workers will have received the training.

[Child Protection](#)

[Early Learning and
Childcare](#)

[Justice](#)

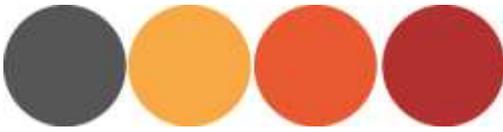
[Learning Disabilities](#)

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Early Learning and Childcare

[SCMA Annual Conference \(28 September 2019\)](#)

The Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) Annual Conference will be held in Stirling on 28 September 2019, with the theme of 'Lean on Me'. The conference will host a range of half-day workshops to support the theme, will be Open Badged, and will provide a free creche for children attending the conference with members.

[NDNA workforce survey for early years](#)

The National Day Nurseries Association (NDNA) has launched its latest workforce survey for the early years sector. The survey focuses on recruitment and retention of qualified staff, including the impact of minimum wage increases on staffing budgets, the impact of Brexit on EU staff members and nurseries, qualifications and training. The closing date for the survey is 3 June 2019.

[New inspection framework from September 2019 \(England\)](#)

English education regulator Ofsted has published its new inspection framework for schools, early years settings and further education and skills providers, which is due to come into effect from September 2019. Under the new framework, inspections are to focus on what children learn, ahead of results, as well as discouraging the culture of 'teaching to the test', spending more time considering how a nursery, school, college or other education provider has achieved their results.

Justice

[Funding for projects to support young people and communities affected by crime](#)

The Scottish Government is promoting the Cashback for Communities scheme which reinvests criminal assets into community projects which support young people into positive destinations, diverting some away from potentially criminal or anti-social behaviour. The next phase of funding from the scheme will focus on projects that support young people and communities most affected by crime.

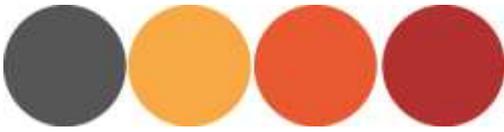
[Minutes from Rape and Sexual Assault Victims Services Taskforce meeting](#)

Minutes from a recent meeting of the Rape and Sexual Assault Victims Services Taskforce have been published by the Scottish Government. The minutes concern a meeting held on 26 February, with subjects discussed including an update on the Health and Justice Collaboration Board and the development of Barnahus.

Learning Disabilities

[New survey to find out about lives of people with learning disabilities in Scotland](#)

A survey designed to find out about the lives of people with learning disabilities has been launched by the Scottish Commission for Learning Disabilities (SCLD).



Developed in collaboration with key learning disability charities, the survey seeks to find out how people with learning disabilities in Scotland feel about their overall wellbeing and understand some of the factors that impact on their lives. The survey will run until 30 September.

Looked After and Accommodated Children

[Foster Care Fortnight \(13 – 26 May 2019\)](#)

The Fostering Network is promoting their Foster Care Fortnight from 13 to 26 May 2019, showcasing the commitment, passion and dedication of foster carers.

[Head of National Confidential Forum appointed](#)

Jayne Laidlaw has been appointed as Head of the National Confidential Forum. Ms Laidlaw has 30 years' experience in the voluntary sector supporting individuals and communities experiencing adversity, trauma or deprivation. The Forum gives people who were placed in residential care as children the opportunity to share their experiences through a confidential, supportive and non-judgmental process.

[Report into children in secure detention \(England\)](#)

The Children's Commissioner for England has published a report examining the data currently available about children living in secure detention, including secure children's homes, youth justice settings, mental health wards, and other residential placements. The report seeks to identify who the children detained are and where they are living, the costs associated with this, whether the institutions always meet their complex needs, and whether different decisions could have been taken to prevent the children being detained. Among other findings, the report suggests that there is limited information about how long children stay in secure settings, how long they wait for a place, whether they face delays in the transfer of care to the community and what happens when they leave.

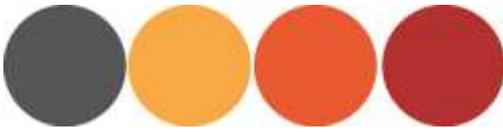
Mental Health

[Group to examine how body image impacts mental wellbeing in young people](#)

The Scottish Government has established a new group to examine how body image impacts on young people's mental wellbeing. The Advisory Group on Healthy Body Image will comprise of members from the youth, third sector and equalities groups, and aims to identify steps to improve support for young people and advice for relevant professionals.

[Mental Health Awareness Week \(13 – 19 May 2019\)](#)

The Scottish Children's Services Coalition (SCSC) is highlighting Mental Health Awareness Week and the theme of raising awareness about body image. The SCSC comments that body dissatisfaction can affect children as young as six years old,



and that the cost advantages of prevention and early intervention programmes should not be under-estimated.

[Minutes from Suicide Prevention Leadership Group meeting](#)

Minutes of a recent meeting of the National Suicide Prevention Leadership Group have been published by the Scottish Government. The meeting, which took place on 20 March, included an update on National Suicide Prevention Action Plan actions.

Play

[Playday 2019 \(21 June\)](#)

Play Scotland has confirmed the date for Playday 2019 as 21 June. As well as a celebration of children and young people's right to play, Playday is a campaign that highlights the importance of play in children and young people's lives, and this year's theme is 'Play Builds Children' which aims to highlight the way in which play is beneficial to children and young people.

Other

[Annual global index presents how countries can and do improve children's rights](#)

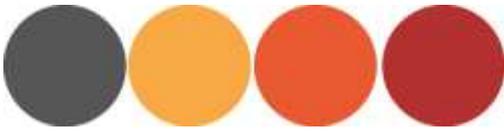
An annual report mapping the "extent to which states adhere to and are equipped to improve children's rights" has been published by the KidsRights Foundation. The KidsRights Index ranks all states that are parties to the United Nations (UN) Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and for which sufficient data is available, a total number of 181 countries in 2019. The new edition ranks the UK as 170th out of the 181 countries listed. This low ranking is as a result of poor performance in the area of having an 'Enabling Environment for Children's Rights', but the report also states: "This doesn't mean that children in the United Kingdom are necessarily worse off than children living in countries ranking above the United Kingdom. It does mean that the United Kingdom should invest more in children's rights, in line with the resources it has available."

[New resource to support advice for young people on healthy relationships and consent](#)

National guidance to help professionals give advice and support to young people on healthy relationships and consent has been published by the Scottish Government. The guidance, designed to ensure young people receive consistent, age-appropriate information wherever they seek advice, covers issues including healthy relationships, the law concerning sexual activity, respect, consent and the use of intimate images. Senior Inspector Lisa Kirkbride is quoted in the Scottish Government's [news release](#).

[Recruitment open for coaching and leadership course](#)

Recruitment is now open for a coaching and leading for improvement course led by NHS Education for Scotland (NES). The three-month Scottish Coaching and Leading



for Improvement programme aims to give social service and health managers the skills they need in relation to quality improvement, coaching conversations and leadership. The next programmes will be held in Inverness and Dundee. The closing date for applications is 7 June.

[New guidance for social service workers and employers on raising concerns](#)

New guidance on raising concerns in the workplace has been launched by the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) and the Care Inspectorate. The guidance is designed to help social service employees and social work students understand their duty and responsibility to take action if they see something that causes concern, as well as providing guidance for employers on their duties and responsibilities.

[Integration authorities to be focus of pre-budget scrutiny for 2020-21](#)

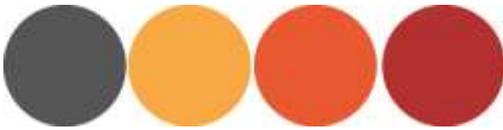
Integration authorities are to be the focus of the Health and Sport Committee's pre-budget scrutiny for 2020-21 at the Scottish Parliament. The Committee has chosen the subject as integration authorities account for almost half the total health and sport budget, as well as "ongoing concerns" regarding the progress of integration. The Committee is to host evidence sessions in the coming weeks to inform the work and has published written submissions from a number of integration joint boards.

[SSSC launches integrated working resources](#)

A suite of new resources to support integrated working has been published by the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC). The resources, designed to support shared learning experiences and continuous professional learning, include: a Building collaboration and compassion for integrated working booklet; a Facilitation Learning Resource; a Fundamentals in Facilitation Open Badge; and five story telling films.

[CCPS report on trend of third sector withdrawal from social care market](#)

A report looking at the rising trend in third sector provider withdrawal from the social care market has been published by the Coalition of Care and Support Providers in Scotland (CCPS). CCPS commissioned the University of Strathclyde to carry out research following the identification of a trend in its Business Resilience Survey. Recommendations in the report include: more realistic funding that accounts for the actual cost of care; ending the use of framework agreements that include inadequate hourly rates; jointly agreed minimum contracting standards at a national, regional or local authority level covering such matters as hourly rates, volumes of work and minimum employment standards; include in any future review of the Scottish Government's 10 year SDS strategy an element of joined up thinking that accounts for Fair Work practices.



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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