



Children and Young People



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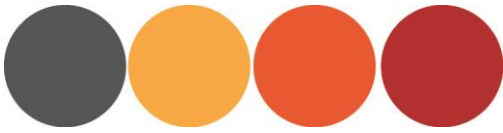
Child Protection

[Children \(Equal Protection from Assault\) \(Scotland\) Bill passes Stage 1](#)

The Children (Equal Protection from Assault) (Scotland) Bill has been passed by the Scottish Parliament at Stage 1. The Bill aims to give children equal protection from physical punishment by removing the defence of “reasonable chastisement”. During the debate on the Bill, the Minister for Children and Young People Maree Todd stated the Scottish Government’s support for the Bill, and noted that the Equalities and Human Rights Committee’s report on the Bill referenced the need to look at restraint in care settings but concluded this Bill was not the time to do so.

[Second case study published by Child Abuse Inquiry](#)

The Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry has published its second case study report on finding into residential institutions run by the Sisters of Nazareth (SoN) between 1933 and 1984, the Inquiry heard and considered evidence about the nature and extent of any abuse of children in care at institutions run by the SoN in Scotland, with a particular focus on Nazareth Houses in Aberdeen, Cardonald, Lasswade, and Kilmarnock. The Inquiry also examined any systems, policies and procedures in place at these institutions, and how these were applied. The case study report will also form part of the wider investigation into the abuse of children in care in Scotland.



Early Years and Childcare

[Updates on early learning and childcare expansion](#)

The Scottish Government has published several updates on their work expanding and improving early learning and childcare (ELC) provision in Scotland. Monthly updates from January to May 2019 cover delivery, activities, service models, engagement, quality, workforce, evidence, lists of published documents and a calendar for communications and engagement.

Health

[Ban on sale of energy drinks to young people under 16 years old in hospitals](#)

The Scottish Government has announced a ban on the sale of energy drinks to young people under 16 years old in hospitals. Included within an update to the Healthcare Retail Standard, the ban will apply to drinks with an added caffeine content of more than 150mg/litre.

[Overview of primary care](#)

The Scottish Parliament's Information Centre (SPICe) has published a briefing overview of primary care in Scotland, outlining how primary care operates in Scotland to inform the Scottish Parliament's Health and Sport Committee's inquiry into 'What does primary care look like for the next generation?'

Human Rights

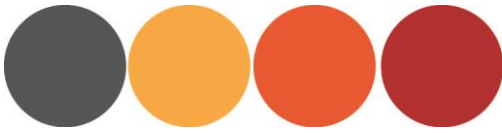
[The needs of unaccompanied and separated refugee and migrant children](#)

The Centre for Excellence for Children's Care and Protection (Celcis) is promoting a new online course 'Caring for Children Moving Alone: Protecting Unaccompanied and Separated Children' which has been launched by the international partnership of humanitarian and children's rights organisations. The course aims to equip people to respond to the need of unaccompanied and separated refugee and migrant children, with resources such as original content filmed in Italy, Ethiopia and Mexico; practical examples of promising practice; and a dramatization to consider the issues being explored.

Justice

[New national development coordinator and working group for missing people](#)

The Scottish Government's Minister for Community Safety, Ash Denham, has announced funding to establish a new national development coordinator to work closely with local authorities to improve how they and other organisations work together to support vulnerable people and help prevent individuals from going missing. A new independent Working Group for Missing People will also be established to support the delivery of the National Missing Persons Framework.



Around 23,000 missing persons investigations are undertaken by Police Scotland every year, and in 2017/18, 64% of Police Scotland missing persons investigations related to a missing child or young person.

Looked After and Accommodated Children

[Essays on transitions to adulthood \(England\)](#)

The Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) has featured an article by Sam Royston, the Director of Policy and Research at The Children's Society, on "Transitions to adulthood" – a collection of essays on different areas of life that challenge young people as they move into adult life. The essays are from organisations who work with 16 and 17 year olds, highlighting the experiences of young people and the complexity of issues that vulnerable teenagers can face, and the key theme throughout is the lack of support young people are afforded as they transition to adult life.

Mental Health

[New mental health and suicide prevention training resource for football clubs](#)

The Scottish Government has funded a resource for football clubs to provide mental health and suicide prevention training for their players and staff. Created by NHS National Education for Scotland and NHS Health Scotland, the online resource consists of three animations that aim to raise awareness of the issues that affect people and that can lead those in distress to sometimes think about taking their own life. As well as being shared with professional football clubs, the resource will be shared across all junior, youth, women's, amateur and para-football leagues and clubs, and mental health first aiders employed by football organisations.

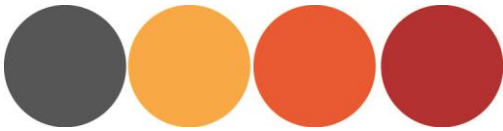
[Youth commission recommendations for mental health services](#)

The Youth Commission on Mental Health Services has published their report on their work and recommendations for mental health services in Scotland. The recommendations cover mental health services, education, community and public opinion, finance, policy and rights, and training. Amongst the recommendations is a proposal for mental health education to be embedded within the school curriculum, and relevant education professionals to be trained in mental health support.

Other

[Guidance on raising concerns in the workplace](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) and the Care Inspectorate have launched new guidance to make sure social service workers, students and employers know how to raise a concern about the care, dignity and safety of people who use social services. The guidance includes examples of the type of things workers and students might need to raise a concern about, for example if they feel the service they work in is not maintaining the dignity of people who use services



during personal care, and for employers it explains their role in making sure staff feel they can speak openly about their concerns and be sure that what they say will be treated with sensitivity and in confidence.

[Update on review of post registration training and learning process](#)

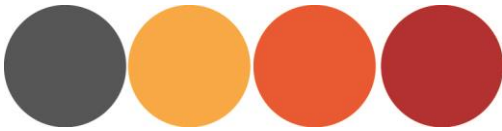
An update has been provided by the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) on their progress in the review of the post registration training and learning (PRTL) process. The SSSC has been working five different organisations to try out different methods of recording and reflecting on learning, finding out what registrants already know about areas such as their requirements, post registration training and learning what is meant by continuous learning, etc, and coming up will be an external evaluation of the different approaches and methods of recording and reflecting on learning in the testing organisations which they will share with the sector.

[Social work association welcomes new National Director](#)

The Scottish Association of Social Work (SASW) is welcoming a new National Director Alistair Brown. Mr Brown is succeeding Trisha Hall, who was National Director for six years before recently announcing her retirement, and he is reportedly keen to increase member engagement in Scotland and understand what would enable more registered social workers to actively participate in their Association.

[Asylum seekers under 18 years old can now apply for pregnancy and baby benefit](#)

The Scottish Government has announced that asylum seekers under 18 years old can now apply for the Best Start Grant Pregnancy and Baby Payment and it will not affect their immigration status. An agreement has been reached with the UK Government to allow for these benefits to be received, as normally asylum seekers are among a group of people termed as having no recourse to public funds, which means they are legally barred from receiving certain UK benefits. The Scottish Government sought to exclude the Pregnancy and Baby Payment from the list of restricted public funds so that the relatively small number of eligible young people would be able to receive the payment without jeopardising their immigration status.



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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