



[Adoption and Fostering](#)

[Child Protection](#)

[Early Years and
Childcare](#)

[Health](#)

[Human Rights](#)

[Looked After and
Accommodated Children](#)

[Mental Health](#)

[Other](#)

[Workforce](#)

Adoption and Fostering

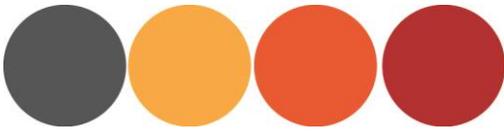
[Reported concerns of Highland children being fostered far away](#)

The BBC reports on concerns that foster children in the Highlands are being placed with families “hundreds of miles away” due to a shortage of local carers. Freedom of Information figures released to Kate Forbes MSP reportedly show that on 12 February 2019 one child was placed 484 miles from their home in the Highlands, seven children were placed more than 250 miles away, and 11 were with families more than 200 miles away.

Child Protection

[Phase 4 of Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry](#)

The Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry will resume in early October in hearing evidence relating to Phase 4 of its investigations into residential child care establishments run by Male Religious Orders. There are three separate case studies in this phase of evidence. Case studies relating to establishments run by the Congregation of Christian Brothers and establishments run by The Order of Benedictines will be held in summer 2019, and the third case study in Phase 4 will examine residential child care establishments run by the Marist Brothers with a particular focus on their provision at St Joseph's College in Dumfries and St Columba's College in Largs.



Early Years and Childcare

[Childminders asked to engage with new out of school care framework](#)

The Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) is highlighting that the Scottish Government's Out of School Care Team are seeking childminders to engage with their survey on the out of school care services they provide, which will inform the development of a draft strategic framework on after school and holiday childcare.

[New awards for innovative early learning and childcare](#)

Six nurseries have won awards from the Scottish Government's Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) Innovation Award for setting up new creative experiences to challenge children and improve their social and language skills and self-confidence. The Awards aims to boost the quality of childcare and will give the winners £5000 to further develop their ideas.

[New fund for outdoor settings](#)

Play Scotland has announced the launch of a new fund to support the establishment of new outdoor early learning and childcare (ELC) settings in areas of very high deprivation where there is a clear need for ELC provision. The fund will offer seed-corn investment to existing charities that are currently social enterprises or who plan to become social enterprises in the course of the funding year to develop innovative approaches for the creation of a new generation of outdoor ELC settings.

[Survey on digital technology](#)

Education Scotland is running their annual survey on how digital technology is being used in schools and early learning and childcare centres. The survey results will help them to understand how digital technology is being used and help shape their offering, so it continues to evolve in line with the needs of the education community.

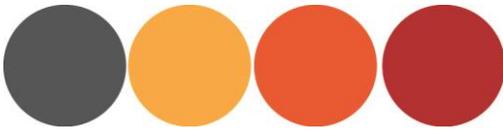
[UK Government responds to Committee report on first 1,000 days of life \(England\)](#)

The UK Government has published their response to the Health and Social Care Select Committee's report on the 'First 1000 Days of Life'. Responding to each of the reports 24 recommendations in turn, the UK Government starts by acknowledging the importance of the first 1,000 days of life and that the transition to parenthood is a key opportunity to provide good information and support to adults on the importance of the child's first months and early years.

Health

[Lessons from Sure Start Children's Centres \(England\)](#)

The Institute for Fiscal Studies has published a report on 'The health effects of Sure Start', examining the health outcomes and lessons to be learned from the Sure Start programme and Children's Centres. Key findings include:



- Sure Start significantly reduced hospitalisations among children by the time they finish primary school
- at younger ages, a reduction in infection-related hospitalisations plays a big role in driving these effects and at older ages, the biggest impacts are felt in admissions for injuries
- Sure Start benefits children living in disadvantaged areas most
- there is no evidence that Sure Start has impacted child obesity at age five, or maternal mental health
- a simple cost–benefit analysis shows that the benefits from hospitalisations are able to offset approximately 6% of the programme costs

Human Rights

[New Bill to protect women and girls at risk from FGM](#)

A new Bill designed to ensure enhanced protection for women and girls at risk from Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) has been introduced by the Scottish Government. The Female Genital Mutilation (Protection and Guidance) (Scotland) Bill would introduce Protection Orders designed to safeguard women and children who might find themselves under pressure to undergo FGM, and will also see statutory guidance issued for professionals and agencies working in this area.

Looked After and Accommodated Children

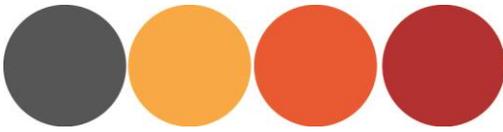
[Call for review of care system \(England\)](#)

Children & Young People Now reports on the call by children’s rights campaigners Article 39 for a review of the care system and how well the independent reviewing officers (IROs)/Cafcass safety net is working for children. This follows a BBC Newsnight investigation which reportedly highlights that the number of looked after children aged 16 and over living in unregulated accommodation rose by 70% in a decade and expresses concerns that children in some settings are being exploited by gangs through a lack of effective care and safeguarding.

Mental Health

[Royal College of Psychiatrists calls for updated antidepressant withdrawal guidance](#)

People coming off antidepressants too quickly need more help and support, according to the Royal College of Psychiatrists (RCPsych). Among a range of recommendations, RCPsych said new clinical guidelines should reflect the full range of people’s experiences in relation to antidepressants and withdrawal.



[Mental health and suicide prevention animations launched](#)

Online animations to help support improved mental health and prevent suicide have been launched by NHS Health Scotland and NHS Education Scotland. The animations provide practical advice to staff in all sectors on how to support people who may be feeling suicidal or experiencing mental distress.

Other

[New strategy for centre for excellence](#)

The Centre for excellence in Children's Care and Protection (Celcis) has published a new five-year strategy setting out their direction and purpose for 2019-2024. The strategy outlines their strategic outcomes and goals, how they plan to achieve them, and explaining where they will put their focus over the next five years to drive the organisation forward.

[Insight paper on social pedagogy](#)

The Institute for Research and Innovation in Social Services (Iriss) has published the latest in its series of Insight papers, entitled 'Social pedagogy and its relevance for Scottish social welfare'. Social pedagogy is an academic and professional discipline, which seeks to effect individual and social change through broadly educational means. Written by Mark Smith (University of Dundee) and Sebastian Monteaux (Abertay University and NHS Tayside), it explores the history and emergence of social pedagogy, key ideas, practice developments and implications for practice.

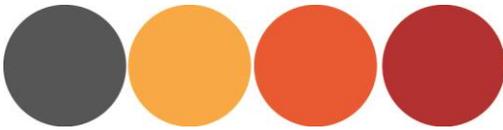
[Research on sector's preparedness for EU exit](#)

Scottish Care has been commissioned by the Scottish Government to research the social care sector's preparedness, levels of contingency planning and resilience factors in relation to the possibility of a No Deal EU exit. The Scottish Government will use the results of these surveys to understand better how it can support the social care sector to minimise disruptions if the supply of clinical consumables was to be affected by shortages or failures in deliveries.

Workforce

[SSSC publishes papers on understanding workforce movements and training](#)

Two new papers on understanding workforce movements and training in the sector have been published by the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC). One report seeks to improve understanding of the flow of workers between different parts of the sector and what this indicates about the career paths people take. The other explores education and training in the sector to improve understanding of social service career pathways.



[New research on post qualifying learning in social work](#)

New research on post qualifying learning in social work has been published by the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC). The research was commissioned as part of work to support a recommendation in the National Health and Social Care Workforce Plan. The research, undertaken by social research consultants Craigforth, recommends several actions which the Social Work Framework for Practice Working Group will consider as it develops proposals for a professional framework for practice in social care and social work.

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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