



## Child Protection

### [Learning from significant case reviews – March 2015 to April 2018](#)

A report on 25 significant case reviews has highlighted that some agencies in Scotland did not always recognise or respond adequately or quickly enough in some of the most serious child protection cases. The findings from the Care Inspectorate are published in a report on significant case reviews carried out between April 2015 and March 2018. Inspectors said: “The importance of well-managed, interagency collaborative working was evident in supporting planning and decision making alongside timely and appropriate sharing of information. In 12 of the reports we reviewed, there was a need to strengthen processes for effective development and review of the child’s plan with multi-agency input.” Inspectors also noted: “A further recurring theme was that of children remaining unnoticed in neglectful or harmful situations until a threshold for child protection was reached. This was a factor in just over half of the SCRs we reviewed.”

### [SASW responds to Care Inspectorate report](#)

The Scottish Association of Social Workers (SASW) has responded to the findings of the Care Inspectorate’s report into learning from significant case reviews. SASW expresses disappointment at the findings but “notes that the media have chosen to ignore comments by the new CEO of the Care Inspectorate within the report, and the Scottish Government policy direction that child protection is “everyone’s business” and chosen to solely blame social workers”, adding: “Cultures of blame don’t benefit the children and adults we are trying to look after ”

[Child Protection](#)[Early Years and  
Childcare](#)[Education](#)[Health](#)[Looked After and  
Accommodated Children](#)[Mental Health](#)[Other](#)



### [Disclosure Bill introduced to Parliament by Scottish Government](#)

A Bill designed to “deliver a range of positive and proportionate reforms to the disclosure regime in Scotland” has been introduced to Parliament by the Scottish Government. Key provisions in the proposed Disclosure (Scotland) Bill, developed following extensive stakeholder engagement, include:

- reducing four main levels of disclosure (basic, standard, enhanced and PVG) to two (Level 1 and Level 2), with the ten different types of disclosure certificate offered under the current structure reduced to four
- a mandatory PVG Scheme for people working with vulnerable groups
- replacing the concept of ‘doing regulated work’ with a list of core activities giving rise to ‘regulated roles’ that trigger mandatory PVG membership
- ending the current process of disclosures being issued to employers before the applicant has had an opportunity to challenge the disclosure of ORI
- ending the automatic disclosure of convictions accrued while aged between 12 and 17 years
- changing the period after which an application for removal of a conviction for an offence can be made
- establishing clear procedures for the registration of accredited bodies who can countersign Level 2 applications
- providing clarity on disclosure arrangements for individuals directly employing a PVG scheme member, e.g. personal care
- enabling Ministers to impose standard conditions where appropriate on any individual who is under consideration for inclusion in one or both of the lists held under section 1 of the PVG Act
- providing new referral powers for Police Scotland, councils and integration joint boards.

Disclosure Scotland will be hosting a series of events in July and August to discuss the Bill in more detail. Those looking to participate in the events should contact [dsworkshop@disclosurescotland.gov.scot](mailto:dsworkshop@disclosurescotland.gov.scot). A Stakeholder Toolkit and Newsletter to support engagement with the Bill are also available.

### [Committee calls for evidence on Bill to protect women and girls from FGM](#)

A call for evidence on a Bill to enhance protections for women and girls at risk of female genital mutilation (FGM) has been launched by a committee at the Scottish Parliament. The [Female Genital Mutilation \(Protection and Guidance\) \(Scotland\) Bill](#) will 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. The Equalities and Human Rights Committee is seeking views on the Bill, with a closing date of 30 August.



### [Legal firm director welcomes proposals to put children at centre of family law cases](#)

The forthcoming Family Law Bill is “good news” for children and families, according to Gillespie Macandrew LLP Legal Director Jennifer Maciver. Writing in The Scotsman, Ms Maciver said that, by placing children at the centre, the Bill “should mean that the child’s views are considered, dealt with quickly, only dealt with in court when essential, and lead to the best possible outcomes for children”. She said the introduction of new forms and updated procedure for children wishing to give evidence will be an important first step and hopes that the Family Law Bill will build on this to address the current barriers faced by children in being heard.

### [New materials to support children’s hearings complaints](#)

A new suite of materials to support children and young people on how to complain about the children’s hearings system if they wish to do so has been published by the Scottish Children’s Reporter Administration (SCRA). SCRA has published an updated complaints form for children and a new look complaints form for young people. In addition, there is a poster which will be displayed in Hearing centres and reception areas.

### [Supreme Court overturns ruling that councils never liable for harm by third parties](#)

A 2017 ruling that councils could never be liable for harm by third parties has been overturned by the Supreme Court, Community Care reports. The court dismissed an appeal from a disabled man and his brother seeking damages for physical and psychological harm caused to them as children by abusive neighbours. However, it found there could be circumstances where a council would be liable and would have a duty of care when undertaking statutory social work, not just for looked-after children. The ruling is expected to lead to a number of negligence claims proceeding to the courts that had been put on hold pending this decision.

### [Judgements on practice, not financial context, says Ofsted director \(England\)](#)

Child protection inspection judgements should “relate to practice, not context”, according to the Ofsted National Director for Social Care. Writing in a blog, Yvette Stanley acknowledges the budget reductions faced by local authorities and the impact these have had on quality in some areas. She said inspections do identify where there have been resource and demand issues but argued that “all vulnerable children deserve the same good help, protection and care service, regardless of where they live”, and as such judgements should not relate to the wider context.

## **Early Years and Childcare**

### [Survey to inform review of Setting the Table guidance](#)

A survey to inform a review of nutritional guidance and food standards for the early years has been launched by NHS Health Scotland. Setting the Table is being reviewed to ensure it is current, accurate and in the most suitable format for



purpose. The Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) has [highlighted](#) the survey and urged members to take part.

#### [Scotland's first national position statement on transitions in early childhood](#)

Scotland's first national position statement on transitions in early childhood has been developed and launched by a range of key stakeholders, as highlighted by Early Years Scotland. The statement, endorsed by the Scottish Government, Education Scotland, Early Years Scotland and the Scottish Childminding Association among others, highlights the importance of effective and positive planning for and managing transitions, mainly into school from Early Learning and Childcare. The statement lists six key principles and makes eight recommendations.

#### [Minutes from ELC Partnership Forum meeting](#)

Minutes from the most recent meeting of the Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) Partnership Forum have been published by Early Years Scotland. The meeting brought together representatives from ELC providers, local authorities, the Scottish Government and COSLA to discuss areas of shared interest and concern in relation to the ELC expansion.

#### [SCMA welcomes increase in credit status for childminding qualification](#)

The Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) has welcomed confirmation that the Complete Childminding Learning Pathway – a Work Based Award is now worth 24 credits. The Scottish Qualifications Authority has increased the credit status of the award from 12 credits to 24 at SCQF Level 7.

#### [Survey on impact of poverty on UK early years settings](#)

A survey on the day to day impact of poverty on early years settings across the UK has been launched by the British Association for Early Childhood Education (Early Education). The survey will be used to inform a short report to policymakers. The deadline for responses is 30 June.

#### [Nurseries in deprived areas facing closure due to funding pressures \(England\)](#)

Many nurseries in deprived parts of England are anticipating closure within the year due to funding pressures, according to analysis by the Early Years Alliance. The report suggests that the early years sector is facing a funding deficit of £662m in 2019/20 and that 17% of childcare providers surveyed in the most deprived areas of the country anticipate closure in the next twelve months.

### **Education**

#### [Scottish Government announces changes to school food regulations](#)

The Scottish Government have announced changes to school food regulations to ensure healthier food to children and young people. The changes, announced



following a working group and consultation, include: a minimum of two full portions of vegetables and a full portion of fruit; a maximum amount of red and processed red meat provision; and removal of fruit juice and smoothies.

#### [Interim progress report on delivery of parental involvement review](#)

An interim progress report on the National Review of the Impact of the Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 2006 has been published by the Scottish Government. The 2017 Review measured the impact of the 2006 Act and made 38 recommendations detailing further work to continue progress in parental involvement and engagement. The interim report captures progress made since the review was published and the work ongoing in delivering its recommendations in national and local agencies, schools and early learning and childcare settings.

### **Health**

#### [Strength exercises at early age beneficial for later life, study suggests](#)

Strength training could play an important role in the physical development of young children, according to a new study highlighted by STV. Researchers at the University of Edinburgh found that exercises such as squats, leg presses and deadlifts are an essential part of fundamental movement skill development. The muscle strength developed helps children prepare for being physically active throughout their life.

#### [Children more likely to drink if parents have lenient attitude, study says](#)

Children are more likely to drink alcohol, drink more frequently and get drunk if their parents have a lenient attitude towards it, according to a study by researchers at the Universities of Cambridge and East Anglia. According to the study published in the journal *Addiction*, children whose parents had less restrictive attitudes towards their child's alcohol use were more likely to start drinking alcohol than their peers. They also drank and got drunk more frequently.

### **Looked After and Accommodated Children**

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

The latest edition of the Scottish Journal of Residential Care has been published by the Centre for Excellence for Children's Care and Protection (CELCIS). The issue comprises articles submitted in response to a call for submissions to celebrate the 20th anniversary conference of the Scottish Institute of Residential Child Care.

#### [Children in care having to 'fight for basic rights', charity report warns](#)

Scotland risks creating a "forgotten generation", with children in care "treated like second class citizens" and "having to fight for basic rights every single day", according to a report by Who Cares? Scotland. The charity suggests that 7.2% of children and young people in care have been able to access independent advocacy and recorded issues related to spending time with parents as well as brothers and





sisters has more than double since 2014. The charity has stressed the importance of independent advocacy and suggested there are actions that can taken now to improve support for children in care as the Independent Care Review continues.

## **Mental Health**

### [Barnardo's publishes report on impact of social media on children](#)

A report on the impact of social media on children's mental health has been published by Barnardo's. In *Left to their Own Devices*, the charity surveyed some of its children's services practitioners to build a picture of how the vulnerable children and young people it supports are affected by social media. The report provides a range of figures and suggests that "children and young people with additional life challenges (such as young carers and care leavers) are more susceptible to the negative impacts of social media". Among the recommendations in the report is a call for more research, education and support on the effects of social media.

### [Advice on healthy social media use and screen time to be developed](#)

Advice for children and young people on the healthy use of social media and screen time is to be developed by the Scottish Youth Parliament and the Children's Parliament. Funded by £90,000 from the Scottish Government, the two organisations will develop a new national resource as part of a package of measures to improve the mental health of young people.

### [Young people fear consequences of speaking out about mental health, charity finds](#)

Many young people fear the consequences of speaking about their mental health, according to the mental health charity See Me. As part of the Feels FM online jukebox campaign, See Me received over 5000 responses from young people aged 12-26 and found that young people worry that if they tell someone they're struggling with their mental health they will be judged, treated differently or not taken seriously. The Scottish Government has committed to reduce mental health stigma, create environments where young people can trust adults and give young people tools to describe how they feel.

## **Other**

### [2019 – 21 Implementation Plan for SDS](#)

A plan setting out the actions required to drive forward the changes necessary to fully implement self-directed support (SDS) over the next two years has been published by the Scottish Government. The 2019 – 21 Implementation Plan sets out the actions that public and voluntary organisations will take to support authorities to build on their progress towards more flexible and responsive social care support, co-produced with communities and supported people. Noted plans include a thematic review of people's experiences of SDS by the Care Inspectorate and a change of inspection methodologies to reflect the Health and Social Care Standards.



### [Resources to support personal outcome approaches mark Carers Week](#)

Resources to support workers and organisations develop and embed personal outcome approaches in practice have been developed and highlighted by the Scottish Social Services Council to mark [Carers Week](#) (10 – 16 June). The resources include an ebook on personal outcomes and enabling conversations that meet requirements in the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016, as well as an awareness raising booklet and mapping resource explaining the range of approaches and projects around personal outcomes.

### [Taskforce to focus on putting human rights into practice](#)

The Cabinet Secretary for Social Security and Older People and Professor Alan Miller of Strathclyde University are to co-chair a National Taskforce for Human Rights Leadership to “ensure Scotland is a world leader in putting human rights into practice”, the Scottish Government has announced. The taskforce will focus on the development of new legislation which would enhance the protection of the human rights of every member of Scottish society, overseeing wider work to deliver a blueprint for human rights legislation covering all areas of devolved responsibility.

### [Discount and support package for young carers announced](#)

A discount and support package for young carers between the ages of 11 and 18 has been announced by the Scottish Government. Designed by young carers, the Young Scot package will include discounts to leisure venues and shops, as well as free cinema tickets and CV advice.

### [Pilot project to support succession planning and talent management for CSWOs](#)

A project to support succession planning and talent management for Chief Social Work Officers (CSWOs) is being piloted. The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) is working with Social Work Scotland to pilot the Project Lift talent management model, which is designed to deliver a structured approach to career development leadership skills and talent management using a self-assessment questionnaire, coaching and structured career interviews.



## **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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