**Scoping report published on development of Barnahus standards**

The Scottish Government’s Justice and Safety blog has provided an update on the development of national Barnahus standards for Scotland. The Scottish Government has commissioned Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS) and the Care Inspectorate to develop a set of standards to introduce the Barnahus concept to Scotland, and a scoping report has now been published following an initial workshop with participants across health, social work, justice, police and child-protection.

**Progress for ‘safe space’ for child sexual abuse victims (England)**

The Guardian reports on the progress made by a Barnahus-style project in London which provides a ‘safe space’ for child sexual abuse victims and provides all the services that could be needed – medical, social care, advocacy, police and therapeutic support – under one roof. The project was launched in October 2018 as a two-year pilot and provides a space to support young people up to the age of 18, and 18-to 25-year-olds with learning disabilities.
Early Years and Childcare

Annual survey reportedly shows increase in holiday childcare prices

The annual Holiday Childcare Survey published by Coram Family and Childcare reportedly shows that holiday childcare prices have risen by 3% since last summer, and the average cost of one week of holiday childcare is now £138, according to Nursery World. The survey collates responses from local authorities to a freedom of information request on the cost and availability of childcare for children aged four-14 years during the 13 weeks of school holiday per year. Only 31 per cent of English local authorities have enough holiday childcare available for parents in their area who work full time, and whilst there are different legal duties around childcare sufficiency in Scotland and Wales which makes direct comparison difficult, there are reportedly sufficiency gaps in both nations.

Group publishes findings on intergenerational connections

The All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Social Integration at the UK Parliament has published a report on the co-location of nurseries and care homes. The report examines the need for intergenerational care to bridge the gap between older and young people. MPs made a recommendations for all nurseries, schools and care homes to foster connections between the different generations that use their facilities and, where possible, to co-locate services on one site. Other recommendations include small tax breaks for people who volunteer at a nursery, school or care home. The APPG will continue its inquiry and publish a final report at the end of the year.

New inquiry into childminder recruitment (England and Wales)

Nursery World reports that a new inquiry into childminding has been launched amid concerns that the profession is in decline in England and Wales. The Professional Association for Childcare and Early Years (PACEY) will work with researchers to run a national survey of former, current and future childminders to gain a better understanding of childminder recruitment. Alongside the survey PACEY will hold online discussions via social media and focus groups with childminders, local authorities, parents and carers and policymakers.

Health

MSPs to consider effectiveness of social prescribing

A Scottish Parliament inquiry into social prescribing of physical activity and sport has been launched, to complement a wider investigation into primary care. The Health and Sport Committee is seeking submissions on the ability of social prescribing to tackle physical and mental wellbeing issues across Scotland. MSPs are particularly interested in the barriers to effective social prescribing, the role of health professionals in referrals and ensuring social prescribing initiatives are monitored and evaluated.
WHO calls for action on sugar content in baby food

The World Health Organization Europe is calling for sugar levels in commercial baby foods to be reduce, after its analysis showed products available in the UK, Denmark and Spain in 2016-17 were high in sugar. The study suggests sugar accounted for 70% of the food calories in fruit purees, some of which were also added to savoury meals. WHO Europe said the labelling of sugar in baby foods needs to improve, raising concerns that the amount of free sugars could pose a threat to the very young as their first teeth erupt, if eaten regularly.

Human Rights

Survey to inform children’s rights report

The Scottish Alliance for Children’s Rights (Together) wish for people to help shape their 2019 ‘State of Children’s Rights’ report by filling out a survey on topics ranging from the impact of health inequalities on children to justice and immigration issues. Their 2019 report will look at the recommendations made to the UK and Scottish Government by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child in 2016. It will identify what progress has been made towards meeting these recommendations and where further work is needed to ensure that children’s human rights are fully protected, respected and fulfilled.

Justice

Call for views on renewed strategic priorities for policing

A Scottish Government consultation on Strategic Police Priorities has begun. Views are being sought on proposals for the long-term overarching framework for Police Scotland and the Scottish Police Authority. The priorities are being updated to reflect developments in operational delivery and are focused on anticipated future demands of the service. The Scottish Government is inviting evidence on six new Strategic Police Priorities: crime and security; confidence and public trust; partnership; sustainability; people and workforce; and an evidence-based approach.

Inspection highlights impact of prison staffing shortage

The BBC reports on an inspection report of HMP and YOI Grampian in Peterhead, highlighting concerns about the recruitment and retention of staff at the facility. HM Chief Inspector of Prisons for Scotland, Wendy Sinclair-Gieben, said in her report that the establishment had matured but that all areas of the prison were negatively impact by staffing shortages. The shortage of healthcare staff was noted as a particular area of concern. Elsewhere, the report identified the preparation of prisoners for their return to the community as the strongest area of performance.
Learning Disability

**Launch of local learning disability strategy guidance**

New guidance for Health and Social Care Partnerships (HSCPs), local authorities and health boards in planning their local learning disability strategies has been published by the Scottish Commission for Learning Disability (SCLD). The guidance has been co-produced by the SCLD and 12 HSCPs and contains good practice examples and reflective questions.

Mental Health

**New inspections on services for children living with mental ill health (England)**

The English regulator Ofsted has published new guidance for inspections which will examine how local services respond to children living with mental ill health. The series of six joint targeted area inspections (JTAI) involving Ofsted, Care Quality Commission (CQC), HMI Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services, and HMI Probation will begin in September. The inspections will include an evaluation of ‘front door’ services and how agencies are identifying and responding to children with mental ill health, and inspectors will also undertake a ‘deep dive’ inspection of how agencies assess and support the mental health of children aged 10 to 15 years old who are subject to child in need or child protection plans, or are a looked-after child.

Nutrition

**Updated guide on portion size and healthy eating**

An updated guide on portion size and healthy eating focused on toddlers, with new information on free sugars, and advice on vegetarian and vegan diets for young children, has been published by the British Nutrition Foundation. The 5532 guide outlines the balance of different foods that preschool children should be eating, and in what amounts, to help parents and carers choose a healthy, varied diet for their children. 5532 represents the number of portions across each food group young children should eat each day: 5 portions of starchy foods; 5 (or more) portions of fruit and vegetables; 3 portions of dairy foods; and 2 portions of protein foods (or 3 if a child is vegetarian).

Other

**Social services podcast series given makeover**

Iriss has announced that its free Iriss.fm podcast series has been given a new look, and is now available via Spotify, Apple Store and Google. Iriss.fm is Scotland’s longest running social services podcast and episodes cover research, projects, events and interviews with key people in the sector. Transcripts for each episode are also available.
The Care Inspectorate Statistical Summary Report for Quarter 1 of 2019/20 has now been released. This presents data on the number of registered care services, new registrations and cancellations, complaints about care services and quality theme grades all by care service type and or service sector. This is updated on a quarterly basis.

A research report for the Department for Education has been published on understanding the influences on children and young people’s wellbeing. The aims of the project were to understand the factors important for wellbeing and to produce a system map, exploring the relationship between such factors. The researchers produced four key messages for policy makers, including the need to avoid using wellbeing as an umbrella term without clear definition and ensuring education and other support systems for children and young people recognise support for wellbeing within schools and the wider community. The paper also recognised that supporting, nurturing adults are important to the development and wellbeing of all children and young people.

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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