

[Child Protection](#)[Disability](#)[Early Years and
Childcare](#)[Justice](#)[Looked After and
Accommodated Children](#)[Other](#)

Child Protection

[School trauma and bereavement service assessed by academics](#)

A report evaluating the Barnardo's trauma, bereavement and loss service in schools has been published by the Centre for Youth and Criminal Justice. Researchers from the University of Strathclyde gathered learning from the Here and Now service in schools and feedback on the experiences of the service from key stakeholders. A number of key learning points are made in the report on the importance of planning and initial groundwork before implementing the service and ensuring relationships are at the centre of all work in this area. The authors also recommend embedding third sector staff within schools while ensuring staff are properly supported and skilled to run the service.

[Concerns rise over children left at home unsupervised, says charity](#)

The number of calls made to the NSPCC regarding concerns about young children being left at home unsupervised over the summer holidays has risen, according to the charity. Last year, calls and emails made from July to September during the school holidays increased by 21% to the previous summer. Of these, 70% were serious enough to be referred to the police and social services, with reports ranging from children being left alone overnight, young children left to feed themselves and use dangerous kitchen equipment, and siblings fighting over iPads and games.



[Extent of online grooming explored by NSPCC survey](#)

A survey by the NSPCC estimates that around 200,000 young people may have been groomed on social networks. One in 25 11-17 year olds surveyed said they had sent, received or been asked to send sexual content to an adult via social media sites. Young people who used Snapchat, Facebook, Twitter and Twitch were the most likely to report experiences of grooming. The NSPCC has raised concerns about the extent to which young people are sharing sexual images which leave them vulnerable to grooming and exploitation. The charity is calling on the Prime Minister to prioritise online safety and bring in legislation to force tech companies to exercise a duty of care to children using their platforms.

[Inquiry finds widespread abuse at Nottingham care homes \(England\)](#)

The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse has published its findings on an investigation into looked after children in Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County, the BBC reports. In its report, the Inquiry said it had received the biggest number of allegations of child sexual abuse compared to any other investigation, stating the abuse was widespread for more than five decades. From the late 1970s to 2019, 16 residential staff and 10 foster carers were convicted of sexual abuse of children in their care. The report found there was no effective assessment of allegations against foster carers and management was found to be complacent.

Disability

[Analysis of National Performance Framework indicators through lens of disability](#)

An analysis of the National Performance Framework (NPF) outcome indicators from the perspective of disability has been published by the Scottish Government. The report builds on a baseline Wellbeing Report, considering the revised NPF through the lens of disability. The report includes analysis against the outcome for children and young people: We grow up loved, safe and respected so that we realise our full potential.

Early Years and Childcare

[Bathgate nursery told to make urgent improvements](#)

A nursery in Bathgate must make urgent improvements in the care experienced by children, inspectors have said. The Care Inspectorate has served a formal Improvement Notice on Little Owls Nursery following an inspection which raised concerns. The notice lists six areas which require urgent improvement.

[SCMA shares call for active examples for new Care Inspectorate resource](#)

The Scottish Childminding Association has highlighted the Care Inspectorate's forthcoming publication focusing on children being active in childcare. Calling on its members to share their stories, the SCMA said it recognised how active childminders



can be with their minded children of all ages and encouraged members to contribute examples to help represent childminding in the resource.

[New campaign to improve access to perinatal mental health support](#)

The NSPCC has highlighted that one in five mothers in the UK experiences mental health issues during the perinatal period. Launching its Fight For a Fair Start campaign, the charity is calling for all families to receive the support they need no matter where they live. In Scotland, the campaign is focused on ensuring each maternity unit has access to support from a perinatal mental health midwife to help identify and support women and their families affected by poor maternal mental health. The NSPCC also recommends specialist support for mother-infant attachment and bonding be available to all who need it.

Justice

[MSPs to gather evidence on next year's budget for justice portfolio](#)

The Scottish Parliament's Justice Committee is seeking views on what should be included in the Scottish Government's draft justice budget for 2020/21. This year, the Committee has agreed to focus on views relating to budgets for prisons and prison-related health, education, employment and throughcare programmes as part of its scrutiny. The Committee also wants to hear views on third and voluntary sector funding in the criminal justice sector. The call for written views will close on 27 September 2019.

[Information sheet shares themes from National Youth Justice Conference](#)

The Centre for Youth & Criminal Justice has published an information sheet sharing the key themes and messages emerging from the National Youth Justice Conference 2019. The event was framed around the theme of Youth Justice Through the Ages and looked at issues such as age of criminal responsibility, children's rights, secure care and improving outcomes for young people in custody.

[Westminster committee reports on serious youth violence \(England and Wales\)](#)

A report into serious youth violence has been published by the Home Affairs Committee at Westminster. The Committee suggests that youth violence is "blighting" communities and calls for stronger leadership from the UK Government and major investment in youth and preventative services. The successful implementation of the public health approach in Scotland is highlighted, although it is noted that witnesses warned against a 'lift and shift' to England and Wales.

Looked After and Accommodated Children

[Children's Commissioner publishes stability index for children in care \(England\)](#)

An annual measure of the stability of the lives of children in care has been published by the Children's Commissioner for England. Providing a national overview of data



analysis for England from 2017/18, the stability index suggests that one in ten children in care moved home at least twice in 2017-18 and 45,000 children experienced at least one change of social worker. The number of teenagers in care rose by 21% between 2012-13 and 2017-18.

[Call for law change to protect 'children's home' definition \(England\)](#)

The Independent Children's Home Association (ICHA) is calling for the term "children's home" to be given legal protection, ensuring it is only used to describe regulated settings. The suggestion follows reports of young people being placed in unsafe and unregulated settings, Children & Young People Now reports. The ICHA said the Department for Education should produce a new definition "to allow a better understanding of the issues and provide a secure basis for policy and practice".

[Ofsted publishes inspection profiles of largest children's home providers \(England\)](#)

Inspection profiles of the 10 largest private and voluntary providers of children's homes in England have been published by Ofsted. As at 31 March 2019, the providers owned 561 children's homes collectively, just under 30% of all private and voluntary children's homes.

Other

[SSSC updates on newly qualified social worker supported and assessed year pilot](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has provided an update on pilot testing approaches to a supported and assessed year for newly qualified social workers (NQSWS). The SSSC is working with Aberdeenshire, Angus and Learning Network West, with each site agreeing to put arrangements in place to provide NSQWs with a dedicated line manager, regular supervision, protected time and caseload.

[SSSC launches ebook on engaging with children following conversion from app](#)

An ebook on engaging with children and young people has been launched by the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC). The ebook is the first of several interactive ebooks planned as part of a conversion from apps that are no longer available.

[Guidance on fire safety in supported domestic accommodation out for consultation](#)

Draft guidance published by the Scottish Government provides practical fire safety advice designed to protect people who are vulnerable to the risk of fire and live at home in supported domestic accommodation. The need for such guidance was highlighted by the Review of the Scottish Fire Safety Regime and agreed by the Ministerial Working Group, established by the Scottish Government in the aftermath of the Grenfell Tower tragedy in 2017. A consultation on the guidance closes on 22 October.



[Annual conference report published](#)

The ALLIANCE has published its annual conference report for its Impact: the third health and social care integration event. The event focused on the implementation of integration and featured contributions from Health Secretary Jeane Freeman and Chief Social Work Office, Iona Colvin, which are covered in the conference report. The report reviews each of the event's zones, including Innovation, Relationships, Human Rights, Resilience, Active, Communication, Self Management, Future of Care and Music and Arts.

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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