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Additional Support Needs

[New Autism Practice Improvement Programme to be piloted](#)

A new Autism Practice Improvement Programme (APIP) is to be piloted by Scottish Autism in partnership with a school in Cambridge. Developed by Scottish Autism and Quality Scotland, the APIP is supported by the European Foundation for Quality Management (EFQM) and is focused on continuous improvement and development of good autism practice. Gretton School is a specialist school in Cambridge for autistic children and young people aged 5 to 19 years.

Child Protection

[New human trafficking and exploitation guidance for health workers](#)

New guidance to help health workers identify signs of human trafficking and exploitation has been published by the Scottish Government. The guidance is intended to support workers to recognise signs of trafficking and exploitation, and to know what action to take if they have concerns. Previous guidance has been updated to reflect changes introduced by the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Act 2015 and publication of the Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy.

[COSLA publishes human trafficking and exploitation guidance](#)

Guidance for local authorities on human trafficking and exploitation has been published by COSLA. The guidance is intended to support local authorities to develop good practice to identify, refer and support victims



of human trafficking and exploitation, and disrupt and deter criminal activities. Topics covered include spotting the signs of trafficking and exploitation, strategic planning and partnership working. External links are included for further reading.

[FAI to be held into death of 13-year-old](#)

A Fatal Accident Inquiry (FAI) is to be carried out into the death of a 13-year-old girl in Dundee, STV News reports. Sophie Parkinson reportedly looked at suicide content online before her death in 2014. A preliminary hearing has taken place ahead of an FAI next year, which will look at the NHS care the teenager received.

[Children's Commissioner calls for action to protect children from 'loot box' spending](#)

Tighter rules are required to protect children from 'loot box' style systems, according to a report by the Children's Commissioner for England. The Gaming the System report finds that children can spend money on loot boxes online without any idea of what the rewards will be. The Commissioner calls: for loot boxes to be classified as gambling; maximum daily spend limits on in-game spending; and a legally enforceable age-rating system for games that are distributed online.

[National safeguarding panel to review sudden unexpected infant deaths \(England\)](#)

A review into sudden unexpected infant death (SUDI) in families where the children are considered at risk of harm has been announced by the UK Government. The review, to be led by the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel, comes the Panel "received notification of a significant number of serious child safeguarding cases which raise issues which are complex and of national importance in relation to SUDI in families where the children are considered at risk of harm".

Disability

[Proposed Bill to require transitions plan for disabled children and young people](#)

The Scottish Government would be required to introduce and implement a National Transitions Strategy for disabled children and young people as part of a proposed Bill. Lodged by Labour MSP Johann Lamont, the Proposed Disabled Children and Young People (Transitions) (Scotland) Bill would also require local authorities to introduce a transitions plan to ensure each child and young person with a disability receives appropriate care and support before, and during, the transition to adulthood. A consultation on the proposed Bill closes on 22 January 2020.

Early Learning and Childcare

[Parents pack to support discussion on out of school care draft framework](#)

A pack to help parents give their views on a [draft Framework on Out of School Care](#) has been launched by the Scottish Out of School Care Network (SOSCN). The pack



is designed to help facilitate a discussion with a group of parents or carers, alongside [a form](#) to record answers and feed into the consultation process

[SOSCN offers physical activity sessions](#)

Direct physical activity sessions with children and staff are being offered by the Scottish Out of School Care Network (SOSCN). The two-hour sessions will be led by Physical Activity and Wellbeing Co-ordinator Greig Cavanagh and will be offered for half term, Easter and the summer holiday period.

[SNP pledges free holiday childcare for poorer families if re-elected](#)

If re-elected, the SNP will expand funded childcare into the school holidays for primary pupils from the poorest backgrounds. Party leader Nicola Sturgeon made the announcement as part of an address to the SNP Conference. According to Ms Sturgeon, the policy would ensure: “Full days of high quality childcare, freeing parents to work, to help them lift their families out of poverty.”

[Research on impact of childcare costs on likelihood of mothers to return to work](#)

Research on the impact of childcare costs on new mothers’ decisions about returning to work has been published by Coram Family and Childcare. Combining data from the Understanding Society longitudinal study with Coram data on childcare costs, the research finds that: women working part-time are particularly hard hit by childcare prices, with those living in areas with high childcare prices less likely to return to work; women are more likely to return to work if they can use informal childcare, such as having grandparents care for their child; caring for other people, as well as their child, reduces the likelihood that new mothers will return to work.

Health

[New FASD booklet for parents, carers and families of children and young people](#)

A booklet for parents, carers and families of children and young people affected by alcohol in pregnancy has been published by the Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN). The booklet explains Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) and the recommendations made in a new clinical guideline on the subject.

[Work underway to minimise impact of potential flu vaccine delay](#)

Work is underway to minimise the impact of a potential delay in delivery of the childhood flu vaccination, the Scottish Government has said. The nasal spray vaccine, procured by Public Health England, is due to arrive in November but there is a potential delay due to routine testing issues. Deputy Chief Medical Officer Dr Gregor Smith said the best use of available stock was being explored and Health Protection Scotland and NHS Board Coordinators have been asked to prioritise children with eligible health conditions and the two to five-year-old programme.



[Children's dental health 'continuing to improve', according to official figures](#)

Children's dental health "is continuing to improve" in Scotland, according to a statistics publication by ISD Scotland. The National Dental Inspection Program report suggests that four out of five P7 children had no obvious decay experience in their permanent teeth in 2019, a significant improvement since 2005, when just over half of P7 children (53%) had no obvious decay experience.

[Human-to-human transmission responsible for E.coli spreading, study finds](#)

Human-to-human transmission is responsible for the spread of a key strain of E.coli, according to a study highlighted by the BBC. The research, led by the University of East Anglia's Norwich Medical School, analysed 20,000 human faecal samples and 300 blood samples, plus hundreds of sewage samples, animal slurry, meats, fruit and salad. The study found that one strain of the infection was seen in the majority of human samples from all three sources. Public Health England said hand-washing and good hygiene were key to preventing the spread of infections.

Justice

[Commissioner backs call for action on concerns regarding detention in Scotland](#)

The Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland has given its support to a call for urgent action on children who are deprived of their liberty, following a recent Report of the Council of Europe's Committee for the Prevention of Torture. The report highlighted significant concerns about the care and treatment of individuals who are detained and deprived of their liberty in prisons and police custody in Scotland, including excessive use of force during control and restraint, mental health care and treatment and overcrowding. The Commissioner has called for full implementation of the Committee's recommendations to Scottish authorities.

[Research on role of Early Effective Intervention in responding to bereavement](#)

Research exploring the role of Early Effective Intervention (EEI) in responding to childhood bereavement has been published by the Centre for Youth and Criminal Justice (CYCJ). CYCJ reports on a scoping study undertaken with West Lothian Council, exploring the prevalence of bereavement in recorded EEI data, practitioner views on the needs of young people, and the role of EEI in responding.

Looked After and Accommodated Children

[Final blog in series on physical restraint published by CELCIS](#)

The last in a series of blog posts on the use of physical restraint in residential childcare has been published by the Centre for excellence for Children's Care and Protection (CELCIS). The final post reflects on some of the issues raised by the blogs, including whether there is any place for physical restraint in residential childcare and what the consequences of change within care settings could be.



[Care Experienced Week continues](#)

Events continue to mark Care Experienced Week (19 – 27 October). Celebrations began with the Lifetime of Love Rally in Glasgow on 19 October. Who Cares? Scotland has published a calendar of events marking the campaign.

[New charter sets out Right to Relationships for care experienced individuals](#)

A charter setting out ten rights that are uniquely important for care experienced individuals has been published by the Why Not? Trust. The Right to Relationships Charter was developed through community meetings held by the Trust, which seeks to enhance relationships among those who have experience of the care system.

[Decision expected in foster carer employment case appeal](#)

A decision on a legal case that could see foster carers gain employment rights is due on 23 October, the Evening Times reports. The proceedings relate to Jimmy and Christine Johnstone, after an employment tribunal found that their fostering agreement with Glasgow City Council amounted to a contract of employment. The local authority has appealed the ruling.

Mental Health

[Rise in numbers detained for mental illness, Mental Welfare Commission finds](#)

The number of people aged under 25 being given compulsory treatment under the mental health legislation has risen, according to the Mental Welfare Commission. In its annual statistical monitoring report, the Commission found that, for the first time, the female age group with the highest rate of emergency detention certificates per 100,000 population was young women aged 18 to 24, with 185 certificates in the year compared with 105 in 2009/10. Men aged 16 to 17 have seen the greatest increase in rates of emergency detention, while both men and women aged 16 to 17 have shown the greatest increase in the rate of emergency detention across the 10 year period observed. There has also been a rise in the number of short-term detention certificates used in relation to young people.

Other Health and Social Care

[Care Inspectorate publishes new Improvement Strategy](#)

The Care Inspectorate has published its new Improvement Strategy for 2019 – 2022. In a blog marking publication of the Strategy, Interim Head of Improvement Support Heather Edwards said the strategy “demonstrates how we have successfully strengthened our improvement support role and function across the Care Inspectorate and celebrates the difference that has been made, ultimately, to the lives of people experiencing care”, adding that it “provides an insight into what our improvement support offer will be over the next three years and how we will identify where improvements are required”.



[Care Inspectorate Statistical Summary Report for Quarter 2 of 2019/20](#)

The Care Inspectorate Statistical Summary Report for Quarter 2 of 2019/20 has been released. The report presents data on the number of registered care services, new registrations and cancellations, complaints about care services and quality theme grades by service type and/or sector. This is updated on a quarterly basis.

[Iriss publishes paper on recording practice](#)

A short paper on recording practice and why it is important has been published by Iriss. The paper explores issues around recording practice and includes insight from Sharon Laing, Service Manager Corporate Parenting, East Ayrshire Council, who talks about what it means in relation to her role.

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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