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Alcohol/Drugs

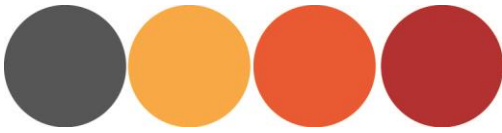
[Impact of vaping on teenager's lungs \(England\)](#)

The BBC reports on vaping, or using e-cigarettes, and the impact it can have on the lungs, focusing on an article in the Archives of Disease in Childhood, 'Life-threatening hypersensitivity pneumonitis secondary to e-cigarettes'. The reported case is of a teenage e-cigarette user who developed a condition called hypersensitivity pneumonitis, which resulted in respiratory failure and treatment with an artificial lung in intensive care.

Child Protection

[Progress report on delivery of National Action Plan to prevent FGM](#)

A report providing a progress update on plans to prevent and eradicate Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) has been published by the Scottish Government. A four-year national action plan was published in 2016, consisting of a range of objectives, actions and activities that sit under four categories Overarching work, Prevention, Protection and Provision. A number of actions relate to inter-agency child and adult protection procedures.



Children's Rights and Equalities

[Anniversary of Children Acts legislation \(England and Wales\)](#)

Past Presidents of the Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS) on the respective 30 and 15 anniversaries of the Children Acts 1989 and 2004 are reflecting on the successes of the legislation and changes since they were implemented. The ADCS comments that the legislation made the children's wishes and feelings central to the decisions made that affect them, and welcomed children centred principles for local authorities.

Early Learning and Childcare

[Consultation open on draft quality framework for ELC](#)

The Care Inspectorate is consulting on our draft quality framework for early learning and childcare services, both through an online survey until 6 December 2019 and consultation events on 12, 13, 19, and 27 November with further events planned for childminding services. The framework sets out the elements that will help us answer key questions about the difference the quality of the service provided makes to children's outcomes and experiences, and is intended for all service types and for children from babies to those attending care settings such as nurseries, family centres, childminders, play groups and out- of-school care settings.

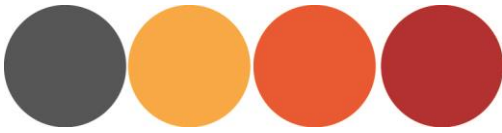
[Survey results on 'free' childcare hours and financial pressures \(England\)](#)

Children & Young People Now reports on the results of a survey by the campaign group Pregnant Then Screwed on the financial pressures on early learning and childcare providers delivering the UK Government's 'free' childcare hours. The survey of 266 providers reportedly finds that 92% said delivering the childcare offer was "causing them financial challenges", and that 96% said the UK Government subsidy to deliver the childcare hours did not cover their costs.

Education

[Review of New School Butterstone closure](#)

The Scottish Government has published the terms of reference for an independent review of the closure of the New School Butterstone which will consider the procedures followed by the Board of The New School Butterstone (the school), the Care Inspectorate, Education Scotland, Registrar of Independent Schools, all relevant local authorities and the Scottish Government (the relevant bodies) in advance of the decision by the Board of Governors to close the school, and the school's care accommodation service, on 23 November 2018. In the first instance the reviewer, James Martin CBE, will consider the following:



- the roles and responsibilities of the relevant bodies in relation to the educational quality, safety, and wellbeing of the children and young people attending the school.
- the actions and decisions the relevant bodies took from 1 January 2017 to the school closing on 23 November 2018. This includes the interactions with the school, each other, and the basis on which recommendations and requirements were placed upon the school.
- any written contributions received from the relevant bodies, or individuals affected by the decision to close the school

Learning Disabilities and Additional Support Needs

[Plans for mandatory training on learning disability and autism confirmed \(England\)](#)

The UK Government is to take forward plans for mandatory training on learning disability and autism for health and social care staff in England. Following a consultation on the proposals, the UK Government has confirmed that a training package will be tested and evaluated by March 2021 to inform a wider roll out.

Looked After and Accommodated Children

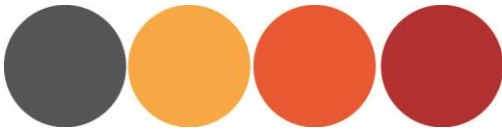
[Guidance on preventing homelessness for care leavers](#)

New guidance has been produced by a working group chaired by CELCIS and co-ordinated by the A Way Home Scotland coalition, on a 'Youth Homelessness Prevention Pathway: Improving Care Leavers Housing Pathways'. The guidance sets out the background and policy context, with recommendations to improve support for care leavers at risk of becoming homeless. The guidance aims to fully support existing legislation, ensure that care leavers who do experience homelessness can rapidly access tailored support, and changing the policy and culture, including shared responsibility between corporate parents to make sure young people leaving care are prepared and supported through their transition into adulthood and beyond.

Other Health and Social Care

[Updated Code of Guidance on Homelessness published by Scottish Government](#)

Updated Code of Guidance to help local authorities in their duties to assist people who are threatened with or who are experiencing homelessness has been published by the Scottish Government. The document updates the statutory Code of Guidance on Homelessness to reflect legislative changes since the last version was published in 2005. Meanwhile, work to review and overhaul the Code, as recommended by the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action Group, will be taken forward in 2020. The document makes a number of references to housing support and care at home, as well as the relevance of the Health and Social Care Standards.



[SPICe briefing on homelessness in Scotland published](#)

A research briefing on homelessness in Scotland has been published by the Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe). The briefing provides information and context around the development of homelessness policy in Scotland and explores the impact of these changes.

Workforce

[The Living Wage and out of school care staff](#)

The Scottish Out of School Care Network (SOSCN) has published a blog during National Living Wage week on the Real Living Wage and average pay in out of school care, and recommendations for improving salaries in the sector. The blog states that the Real Living Wage in Scotland is currently set at £9.30 per hour for any worker aged 18 or over, and that according to SOSCN's workforce survey there are big differences between the highest and lowest average salaries, for example a Lead Practitioner's average pay range is between £8 - £21 per hour. Amongst their recommendations, SOSCN would reportedly like to see all local authorities provide free or low-cost premises; a guaranteed workforce development local budget which not only pays for qualifications and training but also supports transport costs and pay for staff's attendance at college etc, and a national fund which organisations can access to help top-up staff's wages.

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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