Additional Support Needs

Autism Toolbox for learners refreshed

Education Scotland has launched the refreshed Autism Toolbox in partnership with the Scottish Government and the Autism in Schools Working and Development Group. The online resource is free to use and aims to support the inclusion of autistic learnings in early learning and childcare, and primary and secondary schools. The Toolbox supports the Scottish Strategy for Autism and covers topics including understanding autism, supporting learners and their families and transitions.

New autism e-learning module

A new e-learning module platform to support staff around autism and how it impacts on individuals and families across a lifespan has been launched by NHS Education for Scotland (NES). Produced in partnership with people from the autism community, the platform comprises of an animation and an e-learning module, as highlighted by the SSSC.
Early Learning and Childcare

ELC Innovation Awards now open

The Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) has highlighted the ELC Innovation Awards which are now open for applications. Childminders and other ELC providers are invited to apply for the awards to gain recognition of the positive impact that their innovative practice has had on the wellbeing and learning of children. Up to 10 successful settings will receive a grant of up to £5000 to support them to develop their innovative practice, share it at a national level and receive a package of training and support from experts, including the Care Inspectorate, the Scottish Government, Education Scotland and the Children and Young People’s Improvement Collaborate.

Ofsted grades 97 per cent of nurseries as good or outstanding (England)

The National Day Nurseries Association (NDNA) has reported on Ofsted’s latest statistics which show that at the end of August this year, 97 per cent of nurseries were judged as good or outstanding. The statistics also show childcare places in England increased slightly during that time period and childminder numbers continue to rise. The NDNA said the high quality performance of nurseries suggest they should be “put on a level playing field with schools and not be subject to the burden of business rates”.

Health

Concern over global inactivity rates for young people

The World Health Organization has warned that four out of five under-18s are not taking enough physical exercise around the world. The BBC reports the latest research shows failing to take the recommended hour a day of exercise is a universal problem in rich and poor countries. Children aged between 11 and 17 in 146 countries were studied as part of the wider research. Globally, 85 per cent of girls are taking too little physical exercise, while the figure for boys is 78 per cent. The World Health Organization said children’s health is being damaged as well as their brain development and social skills.

Involvement sought in developing new HAI standards

The development of new standards for Healthcare Associated Infections (HAIs) has been highlighted by the ALLIANCE. Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS) is seeking involvement in the process of developing the new standards through the development group or participation in an online survey, focus groups or individual conversations. The first scoping group meeting will take place in February 2020, with the development group meeting from June 2020.
**NHS GGC placed in ‘special measures’ following hospital deaths**

NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde (NHS GGC) has been placed in “special measures” following the deaths of two children at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, the BBC reports. Health Secretary Jeane Freeman said NHS GGC would be escalated to stage four of the NHS Board Performance Escalation Framework over infection prevention and control issues, meaning an oversight board will be put in place, chaired by Chief Nursing Officer Prof Fiona McQueen.

**Drinking rates among teenagers on the rise**

The BBC reports on the Scottish Schools Adolescent Lifestyle and Substance Use Survey, which suggests alcohol consumption rates among 13 and 15 year olds are on the rise. The survey of 21,000 S2 and S4 pupils shows 36 per cent of 13 year olds and 71 per cent of 15 year olds have tried alcohol, with over half of 13 year olds saying they had been drunk at least once. The most common location for drinking in both age groups was at home. The survey also covers drug use and shows between 2013 and 2018 there was an increase in young people using drugs, with cannabis the most widely taken. Smoking has remained stable since 2015, with 2 per cent of 13 year olds and 7 per cent of 15 year olds saying they are regular smokers.

**Justice**

**Committee reports on secure care and prison places for children and young people**

The Scottish Parliament’s Justice Committee has published its report on secure care and prison places for children and young people in Scotland. The Committee undertook an inquiry following the deaths in custody at HMP YOI Polmont of William Brown and Katie Allan. The Committee said it had concerns regarding provision of services in the secure care and prison system, particular in relation to mental health, health care more generally and the support provided for education and other meaningful activities. The Committee is of the view that “whenever our judicial system decides to take away a child’s or young person’s liberty by placing them in secure care or imprisoning them in prison then it is incumbent that they are provided with the best possible care and services in order to keep them safe, meet their needs and aid their rehabilitation back into the community”.

**Looked After and Accommodated Children**

**Report published on recruitment of Muslim foster carers**

The Fostering Network has published a report on its Muslim Fostering Project, which looks at the challenges in recruiting and retaining Muslim foster carers in England. The report highlights the importance of training and support for non-Muslim foster carers looking after Muslim children. A number of other recommendations are made, including review by fostering services of their recruitment literature and the way it responds to the needs of prospective Muslim foster carers. The importance of collecting data about the number of Muslim looked after children and how a young
person’s faith is taken into account when placed with a foster family is also noted in
the report.

**100,000 people sign up for CELCIS online courses**

CELCIS has announced that 100,000 people from around the world have enrolled on
its series of online courses on child care. The Massive Open Online Courses are
delivered by CELCIS and Future Learn and cover caring for vulnerable children,
implementing the UN guidelines for the alternative care of children and protecting
unaccompanied and separated children. The courses are free.

**Creative writing project launched for care experienced people**

Life Changes Trust has launched a new creative writing project for people with care
experience in Scotland. The charity is looking for poetry, song/rap lyrics. Flash fiction
stories, social media posts or illustrations from anyone with care experience,
although the pieces do not have to be about growing up in care. Submissions from
young people aged between 14 and 26 are particularly welcome but there is no age
limit. In summer 2020, Life Changes Trust will publish a book of submissions and the
theme will be Past, Present and Future.

**Stand Up for Siblings wins award**

The Stand Up for Siblings (SUFS) partnership won the Herald Society Partnership
Award last Wednesday. SUFS is a collaboration between a number of child welfare,
children’s rights and legal organisations within Scotland. Inspection volunteers at the
Care Inspectorate, who is a member of the partnership, made a film about promoting
and supporting sibling relationships for children and young people who are care
experienced. The film explores the complexities, challenges and magic of sibling
relationships that can help looked after children and young people.

**Mental Health**

**Rise in mental ill health and loneliness expected over Christmas**

Staff at Barnardo’s have raised concerns about a potential increase in mental health
issues and loneliness among children and families over the festive period. Forty
three per cent of staff said some people they support who celebrate Christmas were
unlikely to receive any presents or enjoy a traditional meal. Staff members were
surveyed by YouGov and results have been published to coincide with the charity’s
Kidsmas campaign, which aims to raise money to help vulnerable children at
Christmas.

**Funding agreed for counselling provision in secondary schools**

The Scottish Government has announced that professional counselling services will
be available for all secondary school pupils who require it from September 2020. The
Government and COSLA have made an agreement to allocate £60 million over the
next four years to build or expand high quality counselling services which can help
support young people’s emotional, behavioural and mental health. Pupils will also be able to access counselling during school holidays.

**Annual Mental Health Strategy progress report published**

The second annual progress report on delivery of the Scottish Government’s Mental Health Strategy has been published. The ten-year strategy, published in 2017, includes 40 specific commitments to support the vision of a Scotland “where people can get the right help at the right time, expect recovery, and fully enjoy their rights, free from discrimination and stigma”. According to the report, 19 of the 40 actions are complete or nearly complete.

**Survey of parents highlights prevalence of loneliness**

Coram Family and Childcare has published a briefing on loneliness among parents of young children under five. The report suggests 56 per cent of parents feel lonely at least some of the time, while 21 per cent often feel a lack of companionship and 23 per cent feel isolated from others. The majority of parents surveyed, 76 per cent, felt left out at least some of the time. Mothers were twice as likely to feel left out than fathers, with young parents in particular affected by a lack of companionship. Polling evidence suggests feelings of loneliness improve when children reach school age.

**Other Health and Social Care**

**New ‘Registered by the Care Inspectorate’ logo**

Care services can now use a widget on their website to show visitors they are Care Inspectorate registered. When visitors click on the interactive digital logo, a new window opens showing the service’s information on our website. The widget can be displayed on any website and every service has its own unique coding behind the widget, linked directly to its service information on the Care Inspectorate website.

**Survey results on Carers Act awareness**

The results of a survey on awareness of the Carers (Scotland) Act have been released by the Coalition of Carers in Scotland, healthandcare.scot reports. The survey found that more carers are aware of their rights under the legislation but these are “not always being realised in practice”. Nearly four in ten respondents said they had never heard of the legislation that came into force in 2018 to support carers’ health and wellbeing. The same survey last year found 51% of carers had never heard of the Act.
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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