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## Child Protection

### [Project to prevent child sexual abuse](#)

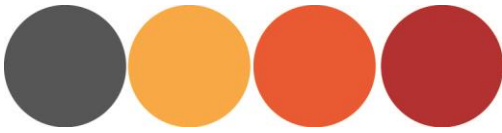
The Centre for excellence for Children's Care and Protection (Celcis) is highlighting a new project to prevent child sexual abuse, which has been developed by the charity Stop It Now! Scotland with support from the Scottish Government. The project has a resource which offers advice and support to enable care professionals and members of the public to prevent child sexual abuse when they suspect that a child is vulnerable, with tools to learn about, identify, prevent, and act upon child sexual abuse.

### [Findings into composite case study ready for publication](#)

The Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry has announced that their findings into the composite case study into Quarriers, Aberlour and Barnardos are ready for publication. The findings will be published during the week of 6 January 2020.

### [Online platforms and online child sexual offences \(England and Wales\)](#)

Platforms such as Facebook, Instagram and Whatsapp are being highlighted by the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) as being used to commit child sexual offences or child abuse images. Data from Freedom of Information requests to police forces in England and Wales reportedly shows that these online platforms are used on average 11 times a day to commit child sexual offences or indecent image offences committed against children aged under 18.



## Disability

### [Screening of short film by disabled young people](#)

Children in Scotland is highlighting that a short film created by a group of disabled young people from the Scottish Young Ambassadors for Inclusion group, is to be screened at the Together! Disability Film Festival. The film looks at five themes identified by the Young Ambassadors as important for inclusion: friendship, belonging, awareness, positive attitudes and asking for support. In the film, young people with disabilities express how it feels to be left out, the importance of respect, and the requirement to recognise different needs associated with different disabilities.

## Education

### [National Improvement Framework and Improvement Plan](#)

The Scottish Government has published its National Improvement Framework and Improvement Plan: 2020. This sets out the vision and priorities for Scottish education, replacing the NIF and Improvement Plan published last year. Plans to increase the focus on improvement activity in early learning and childcare (ELC) are noted, with reference to the new National Standard and associated requirements around **Care Inspectorate** evaluations. The importance of outdoor learning within the “ELC offer” is also highlighted.

### [Achievement of CfE levels](#)

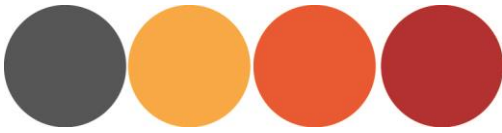
The Scottish Government has published the ‘Achievement of Curriculum for Excellence [CfE] levels: 2018-19’, providing information and reporting on:

- national performance of school pupils in the literacy organisers (i.e. reading, writing, and listening and talking) and numeracy
- the percentage of pupils who have achieved the expected Curriculum for Excellence level in these organisers

## Health

### [Children's weight and body mass index](#)

Statistics on the weight and body mass index of children in Primary one for the school year 2018/19 have been published by the Information Services Division (ISD). The annual statistics are derived from height and weight measurements collected at health reviews in Primary 1 and show that in 2018/19, around three out of four Primary 1 children (77%) had a healthy weight, 22% were at risk of being overweight or obesity, and 1% were at risk of being underweight. Furthermore, there are now substantial inequalities in child unhealthy weight between the most and least deprived areas in Scotland, as the proportion of Primary 1 children at risk of being



overweight or obese has increased in the most deprived areas but decreased in the least deprived areas.

#### [Norovirus season starts](#)

Norovirus season has started. HPS has highlighted the best ways to stop norovirus spreading and new support materials available on the [NHS Inform](#) website.

### **Human Rights**

#### [Rights of children and young people with learning disabilities](#)

The Policy and Implementation Officer (Parenting), Oonagh Brown, at the Scottish Commission for Learning Disability (SCLD), has published a blog on how the SCLD are standing up for the human rights of children and young people with learning disabilities. On Human Rights Day, 10 December 2019, the theme is 'Youth Standing Up for Rights', and the blog details whether children and young people feel their rights under United Nations Convention of Persons with Learning Disabilities are being met, and what SCLD are doing to ensure their human rights are realised and upheld.

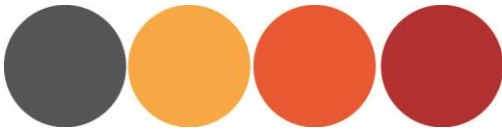
#### [Discussion paper on incorporation of the UNCRC into Scots Law](#)

The Scottish Government has published a discussion paper by Dr Kenneth Meechan on 'Reserved and Devolved Functions in Terms of Incorporating the UNCRC into Scots Law', setting out a proposal for incorporation and touching on aspects of the mechanics of incorporation.

#### [Children acting as human rights defenders](#)

The Children & Young People's Commissioner Scotland has launched a toolkit with the Children's Parliament for adults who work with children and young people, which highlights the ways in which children and young people already act as human rights defenders, and how adults can best empower and protect them. The Commissioner hopes that the toolkit will:

- help you recognise when children and young people act as human rights defenders
- help people of all ages talk together about how adults can empower and protect children and young people when they act in this way
- give you activities to explore these concepts with children
- help children be more involve in making decisions that affect them— in their towns, in their country, and across the world



## **Justice**

### [Easy read guide for victims of youth crime](#)

The Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA) has published an easy read guide for victims of youth crime, including details of their Victim Information Service.

## **Looked After and Accommodated Children**

### [Investigation launched into secure accommodation and deprivation of liberty](#)

The Children & Young People's Commissioner Scotland has announced they will conduct an investigation into children in secure accommodation in Scotland and whether local authorities are following the laws around it. The Children's Commissioner has reportedly heard that children and young people may be being deprived of their liberty without due process of law.

## **Other Health and Social Care**

### [Annual returns are coming](#)

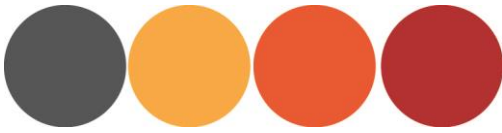
This year's annual returns will be available to service providers for completion between 3 January and 14 February 2020. Each year, the Care Inspectorate asks providers to complete an annual return. This gives us important information that helps us plan, inform and carry out our inspections. We also share some of the information with other organisations, such as the Scottish Social Services Council and the Scottish Government, and we use it to produce several statistical publications that you can view on our website.

### [New Chair of Audit Scotland appointed](#)

The Scottish Parliament has announced that Professor Alan Alexander will be appointed as the new Chair of Audit Scotland. The current Chair Ian Leitch will leave his role in March 2020 and Professor Alexander will step into his new position after serving as a non-executive member of Audit Scotland since October 2018.

### [Young people dealing with grief and bereavement](#)

A project involving the Centre for Youth & Criminal Justice (CYCJ) and the University of Strathclyde has explored how comics can help generate reflective and confident life stories for young people who have experienced bereavement and help destigmatise conversations about loss and grief. The project asked teenagers to share their experiences of loss at workshops held at HMP & YOI Polmont and the charities Richmond's Hope, Barnardo's Scotland and Children's Hospices Across Scotland (CHAS), and has published a comic, 'When People Die: Stories From Young People' with images, stories and insights.



### [BASW launches Social Work and Human Rights guides](#)

Guides on social work and human rights have been launched by the British Association of Social Workers (BASW). Launched to mark Human Rights Day (10 December), the resources are designed to reflect on the importance of human rights and how the social work profession can be at the forefront of defending existing rights and building new rights and protections for the most vulnerable.

#### **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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