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Early Years and Childcare

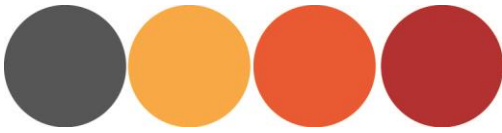
[Nursery must make urgent improvements](#)

The Care Inspectorate has served a formal Improvement Notice on Jacaranda Nursery in East Ayrshire listing three areas which require urgent improvements. These include making sure there is enough food available at all snack and mealtimes to ensure children have adequate quantities of food, and that fresh drinking water is made available throughout the day. They must also demonstrate to the Care Inspectorate that the manager of the nursery has the skills, knowledge and experience necessary to manage the nursery.

[Assessment of ELC expansion and reducing inequalities](#)

The Scottish Government has published an assessment of the early learning and childcare (ELC) expansion under its Fairer Scotland Duty, setting out how the policy will deliver benefits for children and families, and reduce inequalities of outcome. The reported three main benefits of the expansion for children and families are stated to be:

- children's development improves and the poverty related attainment gap narrows
- more parents will have the opportunity to be in work, training or study
- increased family resilience through improved health and wellbeing of parents and children



Early Years and Childcare

[Guidance for childminders on applying to increase capacity](#)

The Care Inspectorate has published new 'Guidance for childminders on applying to increase capacity in childminding settings', which aims to help support childminders to consider if there are special circumstances before applying for a variation, and consider any evidence of how the individual needs of all children can be met, if there is an increase in registered numbers. The guidance will also help the Care Inspectorate in assessing variation applications and should provide a more consistent approach to childminding settings.

[Progress report on ELC expansion](#)

The Improvement Service (IS) has published a progress report on the early learning and childcare (ELC) expansion for December 2019. The data collected indicates that the implementation of the expansion at the national level is broadly in line with forecasts provided by councils earlier in September 2019, returns continue to show variability at the local level, however the scale of variability is reduced compared to previous reporting periods, and is within expected ranges, and data on the progress of the delivery of the ELC expansion will continue to be collected bi-annually by the IS, with reports published tracking the progress towards the delivery of 1140 hours funded ELC.

Disabilities

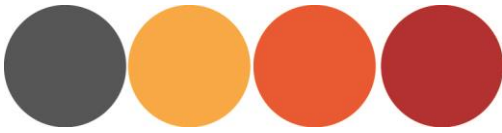
[Review of Learning Disability and Autism in Mental Health Act publishes findings](#)

An independent review of learning disability and autism in the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003 has published its findings. The review, led by Andrew Rome, Catherine Evans and Simon Webster, recommends that in future, autism and learning disability should not be defined as forms of 'mental disorder' under the Act, and that autism and learning disability should be defined in a new law. The review also recommends: that a commission or inspectorate be given power to set human right based standards and enforce these in relation to mental health services, and that there should be inspected standards set for services and environments that Health and Social Care Partnerships have in place for autistic people and people with intellectual disability. The report will feed into a [wider review](#) of mental health legislation, led by John Scott QC.

Health

[Auditor's report on delay to opening of Sick Kids hospital](#)

The Auditor General for Scotland has published a report into the delay to the opening of the Royal Hospital for Children and Young People, Sick Kids. The report sets out the facts as they are known and draws on the reviews already carried out by KPMG and NHS National Services Scotland, as well as NHS Lothian's annual audit report. It comes ahead of a public inquiry into the hospital project and notes that



reviews to date have been unable to establish a number of issues which includes why specifications in the hospital's 2012 tender papers were inconsistent with national ventilation guidelines for critical care areas - an error that led to confusion, and why a series of opportunities to spot the error - which caused the delay to the 2019 opening of the hospital - were missed.

Human Rights

[Rights based guidance on restraint and seclusion](#)

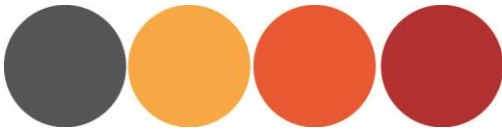
The Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland has confirmed that, following an intervention by the Equality and Human Rights Commission Scotland (EHRC Scotland), the Scottish Government will produce human-rights based guidance on restraint and seclusion on pupils in Scotland. the Scottish Government has agreed to develop guidance to be available by mid-2020, involving children, young people and their families in the drafting and review of the guidance, and they will also consider statutory action if the guidance is ineffective. A standard dataset is also to be developed and introduced across Scotland to ensure consistent recording and monitoring of incidents.

Infection Control

[Nursery rhyme used to help children wash hands correctly](#)

An article in the British Medical Journal (BMJ) details how the use of musical mnemonic based on the popular nursery rhyme "Brother John" (also known as "Frère Jacques"), helps children to correctly wash their hands in the recommended six step hand hygiene technique. A team from the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario in Ottawa, Canada, and a Montessori School, developed the song to the tune of Frère Jacques:

- In step one, children replace the lyrics "Are you sleeping?" with "Scrub your palms"
- In step two, "Are you sleeping?" is replaced with "Between the fingers"
- In step three, children replace "Brother John, Brother John", with "Wash the back (one hand), wash the back (other hand)"
- And in step four, the words "Morning bells are ringing" are changed to "Twirl the tips (one hand) around (other hand)"
- For step five, the words "Morning bells are ringing" are replaced with "Scrub them upside down"
- In step six, "Ding, ding, dong; ding, ding, dong" is changed to "Thumb attack (one thumb), thumb attack (other thumb)"



Mental Health

[Suicide prevention in children \(Wales\)](#)

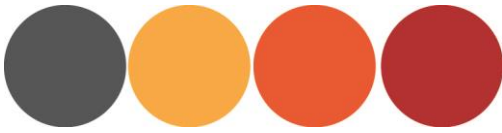
Public Health Wales has published the results of a review into the deaths of all children and young people in Wales who died by suicide between 2013 and 2017, which identifies the factors related to suicide and themes which should be targets for preventing suicide. The review notes there is rarely a single reason why a child or young person takes his/her own life. It's usually due to a variety risk factors, circumstances and adverse experiences, and six opportunities for suicide prevention are identified:

- prevention of alcohol and substance misuse, including ongoing action to restrict the access of children and young people to alcohol, along with the full implementation of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidance to prevent substance misuse
- mitigation of ACEs, including continued interventions for children who have experienced adverse childhood experiences such as sexual abuse, sexual assault or domestic violence
- management of self-harm, including full implementation of the NICE guidance for the management of self-harm relating to children and young people
- raising the age of participation in education, employment or training, including an exploration of support mechanisms to ensure children and young people between the ages of 16 and 18 are supported in education, employment or training; including work-based training.
- better information sharing, including an exploration of how information can be shared between non-state education settings, such as private schools, and state services
- better knowledge and awareness of self-harm and other risk factors for suicide, including an exploration of evidence-based ways of increasing knowledge and awareness of self-harm and other risk factors for suicide, safety planning, help seeking and accessing services, as well as tackling stigma

Other Health and Social Care

[Strategy for improving wellbeing of children and young people \(Northern Ireland\)](#)

The Northern Ireland Executive's Department of Education has published a strategy setting out a strategic framework for improving the well-being of children and young people in Northern Ireland. It outlines how all government departments, agencies and those who provide children's services will work together to deliver better outcomes for all children and young people and links directly to the draft Programme



for Government outcomes, primarily ‘we give our children and young people the best start in life’.

[Integrated Health and Social Care Workforce Plan published](#)

An integrated workforce plan for health and social care in Scotland has been published by the Scottish Government. The plan sets out recommendations focussing on national challenges including embedding integration, waiting times and mental health. It sets out workforce factors to consider when assessing demand, the skills and size of the workforce needed, and the actions to be taken to ensure a sustainable workforce. The Scottish Government has also published [Guidance](#) on the plan, alongside [Illustrative Scenarios](#).

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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