Carers

**Young carers may feel responsible to provide a ‘good Christmas’**

Action for Children reports on the results of their survey of young carers with findings that 47% of those surveyed feel responsible for giving their family a ‘good Christmas’, and that 44% say they have missed out of Christmas social activities in the past due to their caring duties.

Child Protection

**Third case study findings published by child abuse inquiry**

The Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry has published its third case study findings into residential institutions run by Quarriers, Aberlour Child Care Trust, and Barnardo’s (QAB) between 1921 and 1991. The Inquiry considered evidence about the nature and extent of any abuse of children in care at institutions run by the QAB providers at various locations across Scotland, and examined any systems, policies and procedures in place at these institutions, and how these were applied.
Improvement notices served to out of school care provider

The Care Inspectorate has issued three formal Improvement Notices to the Edinburgh and Lothians Out of School Care Network, specifically the services Law Out of School Club in North Berwick, Stoneyhill After School Club in Musselburgh and Yester After School Club in Haddington. The notices each lists four aspects of care which require urgent improvement, which include improving child protection policies and procedures, safer recruitment and self-evaluation; furthermore management must “develop and implement a system that ensures there is a sufficiency of information gathered about each child to meet their medical, care and support needs and that the information is recorded in each child’s personal plan.” And they must “ensure that personal plan includes any individual strategies for support that is to be implemented. The personal plan must be reviewed at least once in every six month period.

Consultation on statutory guidance to education authorities on ELC delivery

The Scottish Government has launched a consultation on draft Statutory Guidance to education authorities to support them in exercising their functions in relation to the delivery of early learning and childcare from 1 August 2020. One of the key changes to the policy framework since the previous 2014 guidance is the introduction of Funding Follows the Child in August 2020. This provider neutral approach is underpinned by a National Standard that all providers wishing to offer the funded early learning and childcare entitlement will have to meet, and the draft Statutory Guidance has been updated to reflect the new policy framework.

Take up of baby boxes

In 2019, over 45,000 baby boxes have been delivered to expectant parents, with 96% of parents taking up the offer, the Scottish Government reports. Each box contains a large number of essential items for parents and babies, while the box itself comes with a mattress and can be used as a safe sleep space, and the health board area which received the most baby boxes was Greater Glasgow and Clyde, with 11,258 delivered.

Evaluation of ‘childcare offer’ implementation (Wales)

The Welsh Government has published an ‘Evaluation of the early implementation of the Childcare Offer for Wales: year two’, which assesses delivery and impact of the universal early education offer which is 30 hours of government-funded early education and childcare during nine of the 13 weeks of school holidays for working parents of three and four year olds in Wales. The evaluation suggests that one of the biggest challenges encountered by local authorities has been raising the awareness and understanding of parents and providers of the number of weeks of childcare provision that children supported by the Offer are entitled to during school holidays.
Health

**Lessons on vaccinations**

Teachers are being encouraged to give S1 pupils Kids Boost Immunity (KBI) lessons on vaccinations and how to spot inaccurate information, reports healthandcare.scot. The lessons are part of a World Health Organisation accredited programme and include topics such as how to assess online information.

Mental Health

**Statistics on mental health services waiting times**

Statistics for the quarter ending 30 September 2019 have been published by the Information Services Division (ISD) on waiting times for mental health services for children and adolescents. Main points include:

- 3,901 children and young people started treatment at CAMHS in Scotland which is a decrease from the previous quarter (4,012) and from the same quarter ending September 2018 (4,239)
- more than six out of ten (64.5%) children and young people were seen within 18 weeks, compared to 69.7% for the previous quarter and 69.0% for the quarter ending September 2018
  - the Scottish Government standard states that 90% of children and young people should start treatment within 18 weeks of referral to CAMHS
- half of the children and young people seen started their treatment within 13 weeks

Other

**Petition lodged on recording of Children’s Hearings**

A new petition has been lodged with the Scottish Parliament calling on them to ensure that all proceedings in a Children’s Hearing are minuted or recorded.

**Consultation on equality outcomes for Children’s Reporter**

The Scottish Children’s Reporter Administration (SCRA) has launched a consultation on its updated statutory Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Outcomes 2020-2023. The consultation seeks views on if the outcomes are the right ones, if there are any other outcomes that should be included, and if the proposed outcomes help SCRA to have regard for the aims of their general duty under the Equality Act 2010.
Intergenerational projects could tackle rising age segregation says report

A report by United for All Ages suggests the UK is one of the most age-segregated countries in the world, with people having little contact with other generations outside of their own families. The report says divisions between the generations have grown as a result of house market trends, with older people more likely to live in towns and rural areas and young people more likely to reside in cities. United for All Ages is a social enterprise which supports intergenerational projects as a way to tackle social and economic issues such as housing, health and loneliness. The report highlights a number of intergenerational projects and makes recommendations such as creating community hubs within care homes, extending school opening hours for intergenerational activities and an increase in home-sharing schemes.

Other Health and Social Care

Annual returns are now live

Annual returns on the Care Inspectorate’s eForms system are now live with a deadline of 14 February 2020. The annual returns give us important information that helps us plan, inform and carry out our inspections, and all services registered before 1 October 2019 must complete an annual return.

Annual report published by SSSC

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has published their Annual Report for 2018/19, which includes information on performance and accountability. Highlights from their work for the year include:

- an increase in the number of applications and renewals with 35% more applications received during 2018/19 than in 2017/18 (54,694 to 73,587), and 21% more registrations (127,863 from 105,352).

- the pilot of a ‘meet your regulator’ roadshow in March 2019 where registrants could meet the Chief Executive and staff from their Registration, Fitness to Practise and Learning and Development departments
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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