



### Child Protection

#### Early Learning and Childcare

#### Looked After and Accommodated Children

#### Mental Health

#### Other Health and Social Care

### **Child Protection**

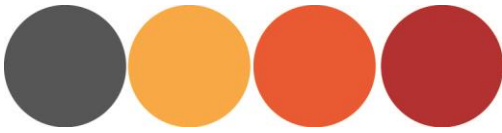
#### [Pre-teen girls most likely to be groomed online for images](#)

The Internet Watch Foundation has reported that 80 per cent of the self-made sexual images and films it has found online are taken by children aged between 11 and 13. The charity told the BBC that of all web pages featuring images of child sexual abuse, a third consisted of self-generated images, mostly by girls in a domestic setting. The number of young people, particularly girls, being groomed online and coerced into making the images or footage is increasing according to the report.

### **Early Learning and Childcare**

#### [Parents invited to apply for funded ELC for August](#)

The Scottish Government has launched a national public information campaign encouraging families to enrol their children for funded early learning and childcare from August. The major expansion this summer will see all three and four-year-olds, as well as eligible two-year-olds, benefit from 1,140 hours of childcare a year. Parents or carers can now register through their local authorities and apply for the option which best suits their needs from the choices available locally.



### [Guide on training and recruitment available to ELC providers](#)

A guide for funded early learning and childcare providers on the support available for staff training and recruitment has been produced by the Scottish Government. The two-page document outlines 12 steps of advice for providers, including joining up with the National Recruitment Campaign, taking on ELC apprentices and using the National Induction Resource. The document also highlights the National Directory of Continuous Professional Learning as hosted by the Care Inspectorate's Hub website.

### [SCMA welcomes reintroduction of funded training opportunities](#)

The Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) has welcomed the news that Individual Training Accounts will be reintroduced after they were suspended last September by Skills Development Scotland. Applications reopened yesterday and the SCMA has highlighted eligible childminders will be able to source funding to further their personal development and professional growth. The organisation said training and qualifications will now be more accessible to childminders and many potential childminders will also be able to access the Childminding Induction Support Programme.

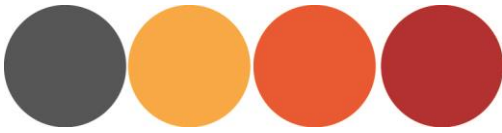
## **Looked After and Accommodated Children**

### [Care Inspectorate report on the deaths of looked after children 2012-2018](#)

A [new report](#) has been published by the Care Inspectorate on the deaths of looked after children in Scotland. It highlights the main themes emerging from notifications received by the Care Inspectorate related to the deaths of 61 care-experienced children and young people between 2012 and 2018. Among the key findings of the report are that the development of a National Hub for Reviewing and Learning from the Deaths of Children and Young People provides an opportunity to streamline current review processes following the death of a looked after child and to extend learning to include reviews of those up to 26 years-old in receipt of continuing care or aftercare. The National Hub will also bring in clinical expertise to reviews of the deaths of looked after children and young people whatever the cause. The report notes that vulnerable young person's procedures have proved to be a useful tool in assessing and meeting the needs of young people whose behaviour may place them at risk, and suggests that their use be adopted more widely. The report also says more needs to be done to ensuring the availability of mental and emotional health services for vulnerable and looked after children and young people.

### [Blog on personal experience of sibling separation](#)

Who Cares? Scotland has published a blog by a care experienced young person, in which she writes about her time in care and separation from her sibling. Theighan explains how she and her younger sister were initially taken into care together but were then separated following a number of foster placements. She talks about how she was not allowed to see her sister and how this had an impact on her emotionally and mentally for 12 years before they regained contact. The author cites data from



Strathclyde University which estimates 70 per cent of brothers and sisters in care are separated and calls for sibling contact to be given priority over parental contact.

#### [Care experienced students speak to First Minister about new support service](#)

The First Minister visited care experienced students this week who have taken part in an Action for Children project aimed at improving opportunities for children in care attending college. The Stay programme is a partnership initiative with Glasgow Colleges Regional Board and West College Scotland and offers practical and emotional support to care-experienced students helping them succeed in college and beyond. Nicola Sturgeon met students and their support workers and said of the project: "Initiatives like the new STAY service are vital to ensure every young person in Scotland, regardless of their background, has access to the same experiences and education and, ultimately, the same chance to live a happy, fulfilled and successful life."

### **Mental Health**

#### [Study published on factors related to children's mental health and wellbeing](#)

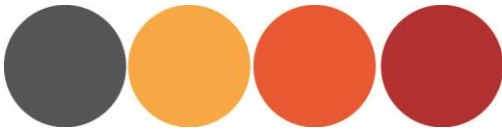
The Scottish Government has published Factors Affecting Children's Mental Health and Wellbeing. The report considers the risk and protective factors associated with emotional and behavioural problems and positive mental wellbeing among children and young people in Primary 5 to Secondary 4. Survey data from the first two tranches of the Scottish Government's Realigning Children's Services programme was used to produce the findings. The analysis was based on more than 56,000 primary and secondary pupils in five Scottish local authorities (Clackmannanshire, South Lanarkshire, West Lothian, Falkirk and North Lanarkshire) and looked at the contribution of numerous factors in different domains to mental health and wellbeing outcomes. Key findings include:

- Pupils were more likely to have positive mental health and wellbeing if they were exposed to protective factors including positive interactions and relationships with family members, friends, teachers and school peers.
- Pupils were more vulnerable to emotional and behavioural problems if they were exposed to specific risk factors which included social isolation and a lack of positive family relationships.
- Most school pupils had generally positive experiences with their family, school, peers, area and health, although significant minorities of young people experienced multiple risk factors in relation to these.

### **Other Health and Social Care**

#### [Updated guidance for children's services planning](#)

The Scottish Government has published the second edition of statutory guidance for local authorities and health boards on exercising the functions conferred by Part 3 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, on children's services planning. Part 3 of the Act seeks to improve outcomes for all children and young people in Scotland by ensuring that local planning and delivery of services is integrated,



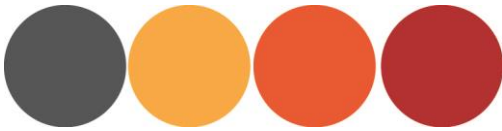
focused on securing quality and value through preventative approaches, and dedicated to safeguarding, supporting and promoting child wellbeing. The guidance aims to ensure councils and health boards work with other members of the Community Planning Partnership as well as with children and young people to develop and review their plans. The Scottish Government will review all plans between April and October of the year of submission and compliance with the duties will also be monitored through informal reviews, reports and joint inspections of children's services.

#### [Timetable announced for Scottish budget](#)

The Scottish Government has announced the Scottish Budget will be published on Thursday 6 February. The announcement follows the news that the UK Budget will be published on Wednesday 11 March. In his letter to the Scottish Parliament's Finance and Constitution Committee, the Finance Secretary Derek Mackay is proposing a "*compressed timetable*" for the Budget Bill, introducing it to Parliament on the same day as its publication. The Cabinet Secretary then envisages the Stage 1 process will start the week beginning Monday 24 February, with Stages 2 and 3 commencing on Monday 2 March.

#### [Resources to compare social service workforce data between areas](#)

An updated tool and data on the social services workforce has been published by the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC). The Social Worker Data Tool has been updated, which makes information on practising social workers employed by local authorities more accessible, and will also allow for comparison and benchmarking between local authorities on the headcount and whole time equivalent (WTE) of social workers from 2009 to 2018. Also available are a spreadsheet of social service workforce data, and a breakdown of local authority post types for 2018 which presents headcount and whole time equivalent (WTE) data of all filled posts in local authority social work services where those employed do not work in a registered care service.



## **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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