



[Child Protection](#)

[Education](#)

[Health](#)

[Justice](#)

[Looked After and  
Accommodated Children](#)

[Other Health and Social  
Care](#)

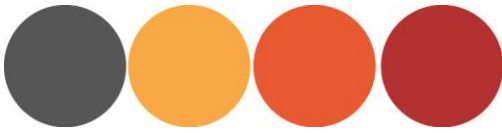
**Child Protection**

[Boarding schools focus of Child Abuse Inquiry's next phase](#)

The Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry is urging former pupils and staff from Scottish boarding schools to come forward as part of the latest phase of the investigation. The Phase 6 case study will focus on the abuse of children in boarding schools and will begin this summer. The first part of the case study will focus on the background and context for boarding schools, including inspections. The second part will focus on some specific institutions.

[New online privacy code of conduct to protect children](#)

The Information Commissioner's office has published a new privacy code which social media sites, online games and streaming services used by children will have to abide by to protect children online. The new code of conduct includes a list of 15 standards that companies behind online services are expected to comply with. These include switching off location settings by default if a child's location could be shared and higher privacy settings to be used as standard. Technology firms will be legally required to assess their sites for sexual abuse risks, and can no longer host harmful self-harm and pro-suicide content.



## **Early Learning and Childcare**

### [Ofsted annual report published \(England\)](#)

Ofsted has published its annual report for 2018/19, based on inspection evidence from more than 26,700 inspections of, and visits to, schools, colleges and providers of social care, early years and further education and skills. The report states 96 per cent of early years providers were judged good or outstanding. This is a small increase on last year and a marked increase from 85 per cent in 2015.

## **Education**

### [Update on Improving Gender Balance and Equalities programme](#)

Heather Earnshaw, who leads Education Scotland's Improving Gender Balance and Equalities programme, has written a blog for the Skills Development Scotland about progress made so far in challenging career choice bias. She reflects on a recent OECD report showing that by age 7, children face some limits to their career ambitions and are most likely to be influenced by what their families do, jobs in the media and types of work they see as "most likely" for their gender or background. Ms Earnshaw highlights the work of the Improving Gender Balance Programme in this context and says teachers and early learning practitioners are responding positively. She also says it has allowed children aged 7 and 8 to discuss gender stereotypes and appropriately challenging these.

## **Health**

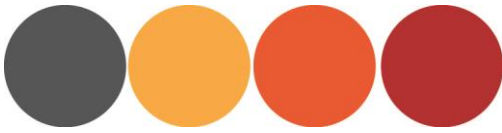
### [Alzheimer's charity reacts to proposed ban on children heading the ball](#)

Alzheimer Scotland has responded to the news that the Scottish Football Association is planning a move towards placing a ban on children heading the football during training. The move follows research which suggests a possible link between playing football and developing dementia. Henry Simmons, Chief Executive of Alzheimer Scotland, welcomed the news and said: "We recognise that there is a continuing need for ongoing, properly commissioned and funded research, in order to fully understand the risks associated with participation in football and other sports. This must be balanced with the benefits of taking part in these sports and our aim must be to protect the long term brain health of participants."

## **Justice**

### [Vulnerable Witnesses Act comes into force](#)

The Vulnerable Witnesses (Criminal Evidence) (Scotland) Act came into force this week. The legislation, which will apply to certain High Court cases, will allow under 18s to pre-record their evidence to spare them the potential trauma of giving evidence before a jury. The Scottish Government said the law was part of a package



of measures and investment to enable evidence to be taken in a safe and secure environment, and improving the experiences of the most vulnerable child witnesses. The new Act was also [welcomed](#) by the Scottish Parliament's Justice Committee, who visited a new evidence suite in Glasgow and noted the Government's ongoing commitment to introducing a Barnahus approach for child victims and witnesses in Scotland.

#### [Encouraging participation of care and justice experienced young people](#)

The Centre for Youth & Criminal Justice has published an information sheet on its Youth Justice Voices project in partnership with Scottish Throughcare and Aftercare. The initiative is supported by funding from the Life Changes Trust to find creative ways to share the voices of young people with experience of the care and justice systems with policymakers, managers and the Scottish Government. The information sheet reflects on learning so far, including from the Youth Just Us steering group and its work on secure care, participation and involvement in consultations on UNCRC, the Independent Care Review and the Disclosure Bill.

#### [Commissioner calls for human rights-based approach to policing](#)

The Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland has highlighted research carried out in 2014/15 which found young people in Scotland had more negative attitudes to the police than young people in England. Commissioner Bruce Adamson stressed the importance of a human rights-based approach to policing after a new report suggested high volumes of stop and search may have damaged perception of police among young people. Since the research was published, changes have come into force in Scotland around how stop and search is conducted, in terms of both legislation and how it occurs in practice.

### **Looked After and Accommodated Children**

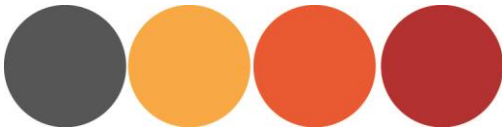
#### [Barnardo's survey highlights benefits of foster care](#)

It is Barnardo's Fostering Week. The charity has published a survey of its foster carers which suggests 70 per cent would recommend fostering to others. The findings show half (49.06 per cent) intend to continue welcoming children into their families for as long as they are able. Additionally, nearly one in five (17.74 per cent) intend to do so for at least another six years. Barnardo's has highlighted a rise in the number of children in care in England and the reduction in fostering places, calling for more people to find out about becoming a foster carer during Fostering Week.

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

#### [First applications invited for new child benefit](#)

Families have been invited to apply for the new Scottish Child Payment in advance of the benefit being introduced later this year. Applications are being taken early to help cope with expected high demand, with 170,000 children eligible for the new £10



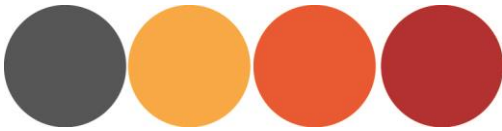
weekly payment. Assessments will begin in autumn this year and the first payments scheduled to be made by Christmas. The Scottish Government has also confirmed the Scottish Child Payment will be available through the same, single application process as the Best Start Grant payments and Best Start Foods.

#### [Evaluation report on Cost of the School Day programme](#)

An evaluation led by NHS Health Scotland has found the introduction of the Cost of the School Day approach by schools and local authorities has helped more schools to be sensitive to poverty and more children to participate in school. Cost of the School Day is a programme developed by the Child Poverty Action Group in Scotland and aims to encourage local authority and school-level action to lessen the impacts of poverty on school children and contribute to equity in education. The evaluation found numerous examples of change prompted by the programme, including policies which make school more affordable and actions that reduce or remove the cost of breakfast and after-school clubs, trips and learning materials.

#### [Survey on childhood and development launched by Duchess](#)

A UK-wide survey has been launched by the Duchess of Cambridge as part of a national programme to improve early childhood. The BBC reports on the five-question online survey which asks participants for their opinion on what influences development and what period of childhood is most important for children's happiness. The survey has been welcomed by children's charities, including the NSPCC who said the findings could help provide insight into how people in the UK think about the early years.



## **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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