



[Child Protection](#)

[Early Learning and
Childcare](#)

[Health](#)

[Justice](#)

[Looked After and
Accommodated Children](#)

[Mental Health](#)

[Other Health and Social
Care](#)

Child Protection

[People underestimating scale of child sexual abuse, Barnardo's survey finds](#)

People in the UK underestimate how widespread child sexual abuse is, according to a survey conducted for Barnardo's. In a YouGov poll of 2,000 adults across the UK, the charity found that 55% of respondents underestimated the prevalence of abuse, while 19% were not able to guess a figure. Almost a third (31%) thought that child sexual abuse only affected 5% of children or fewer but it is thought that three times as many children are affected. Barnardo's is launching a TV advertising campaign aiming to raise awareness of child sexual abuse and how important it is for victims and survivors to get support.

Early Learning and Childcare

[Children's Minister highlights ELC resources in blog for the Care Inspectorate](#)

Children and Young People Minister Maree Todd has provided a blog for the Care Inspectorate highlighting new and forthcoming resources relating to the expansion of early learning and childcare (ELC). As well as drawing attention to the launch of a parent marketing campaign in January, Ms Todd notes recent resources including a 12 Steps recruitment leaflet and National Induction Resource, and looks forward to the forthcoming national practice guidance refresh, Realising the Ambition.



[Early Years Scotland Chief Executive to step down](#)

Early Years Scotland Chief Executive, Jean Carwood-Edwards, is to step down on 28 February after six years in the role. Ms Carwood-Edwards will be replaced by Early Years Scotland's current Deputy Chief Executive Jane Brumpton.

[Early Years Scotland publishes updated services guide](#)

Early Years Scotland has published an updated version of its services guide. The document gives information to parents, partners and providers about the range of services that the organisation provides.

[One in six eligible families taking up Tax-Free Childcare](#)

Less than one in six eligible families are using the UK Government's scheme that provides a 20% top-up on childcare costs up to a total of £2,000, Nursery World reports. According to HMRC statistics, 204,950 families were using Tax-Free Childcare as of December 2019. HMRC, which manages the scheme, had estimated that around 1.3m families would be eligible for the scheme.

[Netflix documentary explores first year of life for babies](#)

A new Netflix documentary will chart the first year of life for 15 babies, Nursery World reports. Babies was filmed over three years and covers children's first major developmental milestones alongside research from eminent academics.

[New online registration service for childcare workers \(England\)](#)

A new online registration service for childcare workers in England has been launched by Ofsted, Children & Young People Now reports. The new website, designed to be more "straightforward", replaces the system which had previously been criticised for its difficult registration process and lack of guidance.

Health

[Update and guidance on coronavirus published](#)

An update and guidance on coronavirus have been issued by Health Protection Scotland. The update includes background information on the emergence of the illness and guidance for a variety of settings in Scotland.

[Countries not doing enough to protect children's future health, report finds](#)

No single country is doing enough to protect children's health, their environment and their futures, according to a Commission convened by the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF and The Lancet. A Future for the World's Children? includes a global index of 180 countries, comparing performance on health and wellbeing factors, such as education, nutrition and sustainability. The UK was ranked 10th in



the world for the overall health and wellbeing of children but performed less well in safeguarding the environment for their future.

[Call for smoking ban to be extended to play parks and sports facilities](#)

The smoking ban should be extended to cover play parks and sports facilities, according to a Scottish Conservative MSP. Rachael Hamilton, the member for Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire, has lodged a motion in the Scottish Parliament calling for the Scottish Government to follow the Welsh Government's example by banning smoking where children may be playing or participating in sport.

Justice

[Resources available following recent youth justice event held by CYCJ](#)

Resources from a recent event on the future of the youth justice system have been published by the Centre for Youth and Criminal Justice (CYCJ). The topics discussed included a report looking at Scotland's approach to children in conflict with the law and an evaluation exercise to better understand the impact of the CYCJ.

Looked After and Accommodated Children

[Iriss Insight on social work with unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in Scotland](#)

The latest edition of Iriss' Insights series focuses on social work with unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in Scotland. The paper states that unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and young people should have the same care planning processes in place as any other looked after and accommodated child, but highlights tensions between immigration legislation and child welfare legislation, and the need for this to be understood and addressed by social workers, local authorities and Scottish Government respectively.

[Mixed evidence on effectiveness of family group conferencing, review finds](#)

A systematic review of shared decision-making family meetings has found mixed evidence of their effectiveness in reducing entry to care. The review by What Works for Children's Social Care assessed the evidence for shared decision-making family meetings reducing the need for placing children in out-of-home care, and increasing family reunification. It found there is a lack of high-quality evidence of the effectiveness of the meetings, although there is no strong evidence that they compromise child safety.

[Ofsted highlights factors associated with success in children's homes \(England\)](#)

Ofsted has identified themes from a study of children's homes that have maintained their good or outstanding rating across inspections. In a blog post, National Director Social Care Yvette Stanley sets out the common factors seen among the homes involved, including a "strong sense of ownership" within the statement of purpose,



good decisions about children coming into the home, visible leaders, high ambition for children, and valued staff and support for their development.

[House of Commons briefing on out of area and unregulated care \(England\)](#)

A briefing on out of area, unregulated and unregistered accommodation in England has been published by the House of Commons. The paper provides information following concerns regarding an increase in the number of out of area placements and the number of placements in unregulated accommodation. The briefing notes reports of English children being placed in secure children's homes in Scotland. The UK Government recently published a [consultation on unregulated provision](#).

Mental Health

[Call for better mental health support for education staff](#)

Education staff in Scotland should receive better emotional and mental health support through Supervision, according to a new report published by Barnardo's. The report sets out the findings of a survey suggesting that almost all staff in education would support Supervision in Education in the same way that it is available to practitioners in other roles relating to children. The charity argues that better support for education staff would in turn help improve children and young people's mental health and wellbeing.

[Evidence review links youngsters' mobile phone use at night to poor sleep and mood](#)

Mobile phone use at night-time is having a negative impact on young people's sleep and mental wellbeing, according to a Glasgow University report commissioned by the Scottish Government. The report presents findings from a systematic review of the evidence on adolescent mobile device screen time and the impact on sleep. It found that: sleep quality is negatively influenced by mobile phone use in general and social media in particular; night-time mobile use and problematic social media use were linked to depressed mood through experiences of poor quality sleep; experiencing online bullying is directly linked to shorter sleep as a result of obsessing about distressing thoughts and emotions.

Other Health and Social Care

[New briefing on petition calling for review of children's social work](#)

A new briefing provides background information on a petition calling for the Scottish Government "to review and reduce the powers of social work departments". The petitioner, focusing on children's social work, has raised particular concern in relation to: inappropriate sharing of personal information; the removal of children from families without a legal process; Permanence Orders; oversight of the social work profession; and contact arrangements. The briefing, produced by the Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe) to inform the Public Petitions Committee's consideration of the petition, looks at the issues raised within the particular context of the Independent Care Review's recent findings.



[New children's rights collaborative to be launched at 28 February event](#)

A new collaborative aimed at driving implementation of children's rights in Scotland will be launched at an event in Edinburgh on 28 February. The Observatory of Children's Human Rights Scotland includes the Universities of Edinburgh and Strathclyde, alongside Together (Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights), Children's Parliament, Scottish Youth Parliament and the Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland. Together's State of Children's Rights Report 2019 will also be launched at the event.

[New toolbox supports children's participation](#)

A toolbox supporting meaningful children's participation has been launched by Eurochild. We Are Here provides six modules explaining how to run sessions with children and adults on topics including participation, representation, facilitation and evaluation, whilst also giving explanations of different aspects of child participation.

[Jackson Carlaw elected leader of Conservatives and appoints shadow cabinet](#)

Jackson Carlaw has been confirmed as the new leader of the Scottish Conservatives, the BBC reports. Mr Carlaw, who has been the party's interim leader since Ruth Davidson stepped down in August 2019, defeated fellow MSP Michelle Ballantyne by 4,917 votes to 1,581. Mr Carlaw has confirmed his new shadow cabinet, including the following appointments:

- Shadow Cabinet Secretary for Health – Miles Briggs
- Shadow Cabinet Secretary for Justice – Liam Kerr
- Shadow Cabinet Secretary for Education – Jamie Greene
- Shadow Cabinet Secretary for Housing, Communities & Social Security – Graham Simpson



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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