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Adoption and Fostering

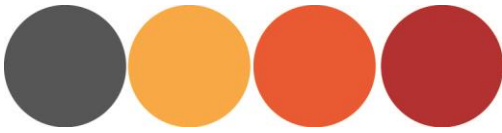
[Use of Scotland's Adoption Register](#)

The Scottish Government are highlighting that the 600th young person has been matched with adopters using Scotland Adoption Register. They are also funding a new website from Adoption UK Scotland to offer key advice and guidance for current and prospective adoptive parents.

Child Protection

[Child abuse inquiry announces additional investigations](#)

The Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry has announced that they have identified a further ten institutions, including four Young Offenders Institutions, which it is investigating as part of its ongoing work.



Early Learning and Childcare

[Follow-up on childcare expansion progress report](#)

Audit Scotland has published a follow-up report on the progress of early learning and childcare (ELC) expansion. The reports key messages include:

- delivery of the expansion is making “steady progress” that is “broadly in line with plans to deliver the increased hours by August 2020” but there are risks around trying to deliver “much in a short time” and it is likely that some aspects of the policy, such as delivering flexibility and choice, will not be fully implemented by August 2020”
- the Scottish Government, COSLA, councils and stakeholders are continuing to work well together at a national level and “there is effective national oversight of the expansion”, but a delay in issuing some guidance increased uncertainty among providers
- important workforce challenges remain, threatening sustainability
- putting in place the necessary infrastructure remains a big risk to the expansion as around half of the work is planned for completion in the final few months before August 2020
- plans to evaluate the expansion are well advanced but challenges remain, such as how the longer-term economic benefits will be assessed, or how family wellbeing will be measured

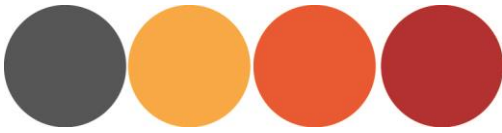
[First learning events for the ELC Improvement Programme](#)

The Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) Improvement Programme Team will begin their 18-month journey of facilitating five local learning events. These events are the first of four in each area, which will be held over the life of the programme. Care Inspectorate inspectors from our ELC teams, local authority representatives and national stakeholders will come together to support providers and managers to make improvements in the quality criteria of the ELC national standard. The area learning sessions will take place on:

- Inverness – 12 March 2020
- Aberdeen City – 17 March 2020
- Dunbar – 19 March 2020
- Dumfries – 24 March 2020
- Glasgow City – 26 March 2020

[Commission to review recruitment and workforce challenges \(England\)](#)

Nursery World reports the formation of a new Early Years Workforce Commission to carry out a review of the workforce and recruitment challenges facing the sector and develop a workforce strategy. The steering group is made up of representatives from



training bodies, sector membership organisations, researchers and experts, and the main aim of the group is to ensure that the early years sector is recognised and offers a rewarding and attractive career path.

Education

[Coronavirus guidance for education providers](#)

The Scottish Government has published specific guidance by Health Protection Scotland on coronavirus for education providers, including advice on how to prevent the spread of infection and what to do if staff or students become unwell. It also covers what pupils or members of staff should do if they have returned from a higher risk area as part of a school trip.

Human Rights

[Scotland's first national observatory of children's rights](#)

The Centre for excellence for Children's Care and Protection (Celcis) is promoting the launch of the new Observatory of Children's Human Rights Scotland, which aims to bring together children and professionals with rights expertise from across Scotland to amplify the impact of research on policy debates, both nationally and internationally. The Observatory was initiated by the University of Edinburgh and the University of Strathclyde, the Children's Parliament, the Scottish Youth Parliament, the Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland, and Together, and the Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights.

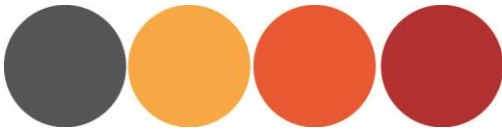
[Promoting children's rights and ensuring they are involved in decision-making](#)

The Scottish Government as part of their commitment to recognising, respecting and promoting children's rights, are developing a strategic approach to children and young people's participation, and has published advice and guidance on children and young's participation in decision-making alongside [case studies](#). The guidance is for public authorities, policymakers, services designers and professionals who have to or want to engage with children and young people as part of their decision-making, and contains various resources on participation in decision-making (guidance, practice examples, research publications), referencing a range of participation models, and provides details of practitioners and researchers who can provide further information and guidance.

Looked After and Accommodated Children

[Calls for review of the care system \(England\)](#)

Barnardo's has joined with 27 other organisations working with care experienced children and young people to call for the UK Government to carry out an independent review of the care system in England. The letter containing this call for a review highlights that the views and experiences of care-experienced people and



their families remains the central focus of any review, and sets out their proposals for the aims, scope and principles of the review.

[Report analysing serious case reviews \(England\)](#)

The UK Government's Department of Health has published, 'Complexity and challenge: a triennial analysis of serious case reviews 2014 to 2017'. This study examines serious case reviews relating to incidents from April 2014 to March 2017, with findings for professionals working with children and families.

Mental Health

[Statistics on CAMHS waiting times](#)

Waiting times statistics for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) for the quarter ending 31 December 2019 have been published by Information Services Division (SCD) Scotland. The main points are:

- 3,884 children and young people started treatment at CAMHS in Scotland which is a 0.4% decrease from the previous quarter (3,901), and 14.1% decrease from the same quarter ending December 2018 (4,523)
- more than six out of ten (66.4%) children and young people were seen within 18 weeks, compared to 64.5% for the previous quarter and 72.8% for the quarter ending December 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 11 weeks

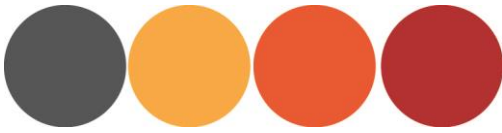
Other Health and Social Care

[Joint statement from regulators on coronavirus](#)

Statutory health and care regulators have published a joint statement, including the General Chiropractic Council, General Dental Council, General Medical Council, General Optical Council, General Osteopathic Council, General Pharmaceutical Council, Health and Care Professions Council, Nursing and Midwifery Council, Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland, Scottish Social Services Council, and Social Work England, on coronavirus and how they will carry out their roles during this time.

[Four nations coronavirus action plan published](#)

The Scottish Government, Welsh Government, Northern Ireland Executive, and the UK Government have jointly published an Action Plan setting out a collective approach to the ongoing outbreak of coronavirus (COVID-19). In addition to this, the Scottish Government has published [Scotland-specific guidance](#) on its resilience and



response arrangements, which provides further detail on how the response will be delivered and coordinated if there is a sustained epidemic.

[Review to assess and improve support for people living with an eating disorder](#)

A national review of eating disorder services, which is designed to assess and improve support for people living with an eating disorder, has been announced by the Scottish Government. The national review will cover services for adults and young people over 12, and it is expected to draw on the upcoming Mental Welfare Commission (MWC) report on eating disorder services which is expected in summer 2020. The review will aim to:

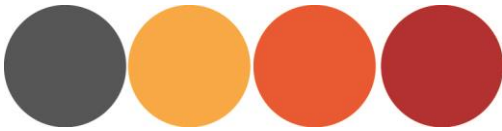
- cover eating disorder services for both adults and young people from the age of 12 and up
- conduct a needs assessment of services that are provided by the third sector and community eating disorder support across Scotland
- cross-reference the findings of this needs assessment with the findings of the MWC report, so that we have a full picture of the current system of support that is available for those with an eating disorder
- make recommendations for how specialist eating disorder services can best be provided in urban, semi-urban and rural areas, and
- make recommendations for what the age limit (if any) of an eating disorder service should be

[Report on the health of babies, children and young people across the UK](#)

The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) has published their report on the 'State of Child Health 2020', a compilation of data on the health of babies, children and young people across the UK. The indicators used for 2020 include mortality, maternal and perinatal health, prevention of ill health, injury prevention, healthy behaviours, mental health, family and social environment, long term conditions and child health workforce. The data on these indicators reportedly shows that on many measures of children's health and wellbeing, progress has stalled, or is in reverse, that across most indicators health outcomes are worse for children who live in deprived areas and that where there have been notable improvements in children's health, the UK is often "lagging far behind other countries."

[Working arrangements between Ofsted and the Care Inspectorate Wales \(CIW\)](#)

A Memorandum of understanding has been published to set out the working arrangements between Ofsted and the Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) to share information. This memorandum of understanding sets out the areas in which Ofsted and the Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) will cooperate, exchange information and work together as part of their respective statutory responsibilities.



Other

[New Best Value guidance for local authorities](#)

New statutory guidance to help local authorities achieve Best Value has been published by the Scottish Government. The revised guidance has been produced to reflect changes to the public service landscape since previous guidance was published in 2004, placing an emphasis on personalised services, outcomes and the need for innovation. The guidance should be read in conjunction with the [statutory guidance on community planning](#), which describes how local authorities and other public sector bodies should work together in the context of community planning.

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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