



[Early Learning and  
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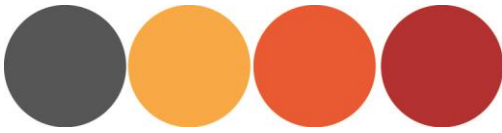
[Mental Health](#)

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## Early Learning and Childcare

### [Analysis of ELC workforce and labour market implications](#)

Published as an appendix to a report on [Implications of labour markets for the social care workforce](#), the Scottish Government and COSLA have published an independent analysis of the early learning and childcare (ELC) workforce and labour market implications. The analysis of the ELC sector draws on survey findings and stakeholder consultations, as well as drawing on workforce data sourced from the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC), Skills Development Scotland (SDS) and the Scottish Funding Council (SFC), and existing reports. Amongst other conclusions, the report finds that the “lack of workforce diversity limits the pool of potential recruits to support replacement and expansion demand”, and challenges include changing the attractiveness of the sector, the gender profile and ensuring staff retention and development.



## **Early Learning and Childcare**

### [Debate on expansion of funded childcare](#)

The Scottish Conservatives have led a debate on early learning and childcare (ELC) in the Scottish Parliament. The Conservatives have raised concerns following Audit Scotland's recent follow-up report on the ELC expansion and called for the Scottish Government "urgently address" these. During the debate, Green Health Spokesperson Alison Johnstone noted the "challenging timescales" of the expansion and warned "that a large volume of new places might be being registered at once, which could create capacity issues for the Care Inspectorate." Children's Minister Maree Todd noted that the Scottish Government is funding research into the childminding workforce, in partnership with the Care Inspectorate and the Scottish Childminding Association.

### [Scheme to help parents and carers to support children's learning and development](#)

The Scottish Government has launched Family Learning Scotland to help parents and carers support their children's learning and development and build the parents' or carers' confidence in their own learning skills through increased engagement in education, training or work, and the development of other skills to support increased economic activity. Family Learning Scotland will be targeted at families living in the 20% most deprived communities and the priority family types identified in the Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan.

## **Infection Prevention and Control**

### [Revised notification guidance in light of coronavirus outbreak](#)

The Care Inspectorate, in light of the current outbreak of coronavirus COVID-19, has revised our notifications guidance with immediate effect and until further notice. The addition, which applies to all services, is as follows:

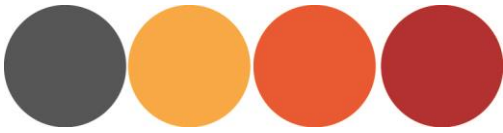
- providers must notify the Care Inspectorate within 24 hours of any suspected or known case or outbreak of coronavirus COVID-19 - this means one or more cases involving staff, people who use services, volunteers, visiting professionals, visitors or visiting contractors/suppliers that people within the service have had contact with

Your notification must include confirmation that you have:

- contacted your local health protection team as well as relevant NHS personnel (for example GP) for advice on any action you should take
- informed the health and social care partnership or local authority

### [First case of community transmission of coronavirus identified](#)

The first case of community transmission of coronavirus in Scotland has been identified through the enhanced surveillance scheme, Chief Medical Officer



Catherine Calderwood has announced. Dr Calderwood said the first case of coronavirus unrelated to contact or travel “was to be expected” and Scotland remained in the containment phase.

### [Health Secretary updates Parliament on coronavirus](#)

Health Secretary Jeane Freeman has provided an update to the Scottish Parliament in the context of the “profound and escalating challenge” represented by the coronavirus outbreak. Ms Freeman confirmed that the total number of cases in Scotland had risen to 27, noting that this was four more cases than the day before, and that Scotland remained in the ‘containment’ phase. Ms Freeman said the Scottish Government expected to move towards the ‘delay phase’ “relatively soon” but stressed that the timing was critical around when particular measures are taken to “flatten the infection curve”. She said work was in hand “to ensure that the health and social care sector is as ready as it can be for any increase in the number of cases”. Responding to a supplementary question, the Health Secretary encouraged care homes to follow public health advice, adding that work is underway to establish what additional clinical and training support services will require.

### [Latest coronavirus guidance available](#)

The latest guidance on the coronavirus outbreak is available on the Health Protection Scotland COVID-19 page. Specific guidance documents been developed for a range of healthcare and non-healthcare settings.

## **Looked After and Accommodated Children**

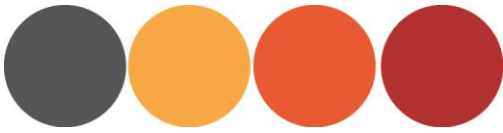
### [Report into health assessments for looked after children](#)

Barnardo’s Scotland has published a report, ‘Care in Mind: Health Assessments for Looked-after Children’, on how Health Boards in Scotland approach health assessments for looked after children and care leavers. The report contains the findings from a set of Freedom of Information requests sent to all 14 Health Boards in Scotland, and suggests that health assessments trigger necessary support services for looked after children but they are carried out inconsistently across Scotland to the potential detriment of many young people. Recommendations within the report include that NHS and Scottish Government guidance should reference and complement one another, and other policy initiatives such as corporate parenting, and the creation of a minimum dataset for Health Boards and Local Authorities to create a consistent system for evaluation across Scotland, including recording how a Health Assessment has affected a Child’s Plan.

## **Mental Health**

### [Progress of the Children and Young People’s Mental Health and Wellbeing Programme Board](#)

The Minister for Mental Health Clare Haughey has written to the Scottish Parliament’s Health and Sport Committee to update them on the progress of the



Children and Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing Programme Board. The Minister sets out the Board's progress against its nine deliverables, which include community-based support, crisis support, local partnership planning and developing a CAMHS Service Specification.

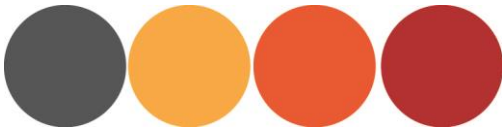
## **Other**

### [Parental use of 'cry it out' in infants](#)

The results of a study published in The Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry, 'Parental use of 'cry it out' in infants: no adverse effects on attachment and behavioural development at 18 months', suggests that to occasionally or often 'leaving infant to cry it out' during the first six months was not associated with adverse behavioural development and attachment at 18 months.

### [Disclosure \(Scotland\) Bill completes Stage 2](#)

The Disclosure (Scotland) Bill has been reprinted as amended at Stage 2. The Care Inspectorate (Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland) is listed as a "relevant regulatory body" within the Bill. The Bill restates and amends the law relating to the disclosure of criminal history and other information by Scottish Ministers, to make amendments to the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007 and for connected purposes.



## **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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