



## Child Protection

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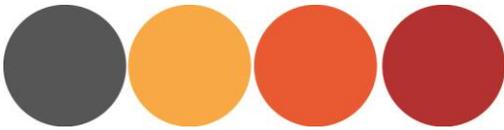
[Other Health and Social  
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### [Latest Child Abuse Inquiry case study findings published](#)

The Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry has published findings on the provision of residential care by the Marist Brothers at St Columba's College, Largs, and St Joseph's College, Dumfries between 1950 and 1981. Inquiry Chair Lady Smith concluded that children were abused at both boarding schools and that systemic failures exposed children to risks of sexual, physical and psychological danger. According to Lady Smith: "A culture of obedience, fear of severe punishment and the authority of the Catholic Church served to empower abusers, and, conversely, rendered many victims powerless in the belief that their complaints of abuse would not be believed. Failures to respond adequately to reports of abuse represented serious failures in care."

### [Results of survey on vulnerable children and pornography published](#)

The results of a survey on vulnerable children and pornography have been published by Barnardo's. According to the charity, 26% of its frontline workers had supported vulnerable children who had accessed pornography and had reported it had had a damaging impact on what children view as healthy and expected in relationships. In addition, 32% of workers said it had led to the children they support developing unrealistic expectations of sex and relationships, and 28% said it led to children displaying inappropriate sexualised behaviour.



## **Early Learning and Childcare**

### [Latest ELC Covid-19 update issued by Scottish Government](#)

The latest Early Learning and Childcare Covid-19 Update has been published by the Scottish Government. The update contains information on a range of topics, including Covid guidance, workforce and professional learning, outdoor play and Funding Follows the Child implementation.

### [SOSCN writes to Scottish Government to highlight financial difficulties](#)

The Scottish Out of School Care Network (SOSCN) has written to the Scottish Government to highlight the financial difficulties faced by the school age childcare sector and the potential impact on children and families. The letter calls for additional funding for the sector to support the commitment to expanding wraparound school age childcare and to ensure it is seen as “a part of the infrastructure necessary to support children, families and the wider economy”.

### [Revised Fire Safety Guidance for childminders published](#)

New guidance for childminders on fire precautions in domestic childminding premises has been published by the Care Inspectorate in partnership with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and the Scottish Childminding Association. The guidance, revised and updated in line with the new legislation, states that as the minimum standard, all childminding settings (as with all homes in Scotland) should have interconnected alarms from February 2022, which can be mains-wired or sealed tamper-proof units with long-life lithium batteries.

## **Justice**

### [Fiona Dyer appointed Director of CYCJ](#)

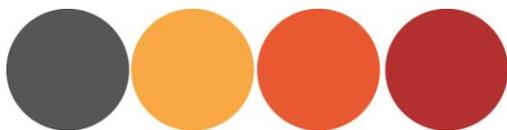
Fiona Dyer has been announced as the new Director of the Children and Young People’s Centre for Justice (CYCJ). Ms Dyer, who succeeds Claire Lightowler, has a background in social work practice and management, and has been acting as interim Director having previously held the post of Deputy Director.

### [CYCJ launches stakeholder survey on children and justice in Scotland](#)

A survey seeking views on children and justice in Scotland has been launched by the Children and Young People’s Centre for Justice (CYCJ). The survey, aimed at stakeholders, is designed to shape the work the CYCJ does to improve outcomes for children and young people in conflict with the law, and communities across Scotland.

### [New sentencing guideline for young people approved](#)

A new sentencing guideline which seeks to reduce reoffending among young people has been approved by the High Court of Justiciary. The new guideline, developed by the Scottish Sentencing Council, requires courts to have regard to rehabilitation as a



primary consideration in sentencing young people, in recognition of their greater capacity for change. From 26 January, the guideline will apply to the sentencing of those who are under the age of 25 at the date of their plea of guilty or when a finding of guilt is made against them.

## **Looked After and Accommodated Children**

### [Ofsted consults on changes to interim inspections \(England\)](#)

A consultation on new arrangements for interim inspections of children's homes has been launched by Ofsted. Designed to provide assurance that a home has not declined since the full inspection, the proposals include a single judgement based on the inspection findings and replacement of the term 'interim' with a more meaningful title. The consultation will run until 24 January 2022, with new arrangements to be introduced from 1 April.

## **Mental Health**

### [See Me launches online resources to tackle mental health stigma](#)

Free online resources to help improve practice and tackle mental health stigma in health and social care have been launched by See Me. The launch comes after latest research by the charity suggests that 15% of people with experience of mental health problems have experienced stigma in GP practices. The resources include training, a video library and guidance on policy. The new resources have been launched alongside a new campaign, See Us, which encourages everyone in Scotland to take action to end mental health stigma and discrimination.

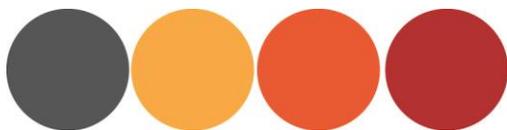
### [Scots' attitudes to mental health have improved in last 10 years, according to charity](#)

Research from mental health charity See Me has found that more than half of Scots (58%) say that their own perceptions of people with mental health problems have improved in the last 10 years, while 63% think that perceptions of mental health have improved since the start of the pandemic. The charity is asking Scotland to keep the momentum going and has launched a new campaign, See Us, encouraging people from all walks of life to get involved to end the stigma around mental health.

## **Other Health and Social Care**

### [New guides for providers on personal planning published by Care Inspectorate](#)

New guides for providers on personal planning have been published by the Care Inspectorate. The guides, including those relating to [Early Learning and Childcare](#) and [Children and Young People](#), are designed to support managers and staff in services to develop and improve how personal plans for children, young people and adults are undertaken. They will also help inspectors to evaluate personal plans in a more consistent way during our scrutiny and improvement work. The guides have been developed collaboratively by colleagues within the early learning and childcare, children and young people, and adults' inspection teams. National policy, legislation,



evidence-based practice and real-life examples of people experiencing care have underpinned the development of these.

### [Report on experiences of social care and SDS in Dumfries and Galloway](#)

The Alliance and Self-directed Support Scotland have published a report on people's experiences of social care and Self-directed Support (SDS) in Dumfries and Galloway. Highlighting evidence of good practice and where improvements can be made, the report makes a number of recommendations including action to ensure that budget cuts and tightened eligibility criteria do not negatively affect the physical and mental health of people on low incomes who access or are applying for SDS.

### [Evidence review on alcohol and drug use among children and young people](#)

The findings of a rapid evidence review of prevalence and harms relating to alcohol and drug use among children and young people have been published by the Scottish Government. The review draws on evidence and literature to: provide an up-to-date overview of the latest relevant data; give an understanding of the nature and extent of the health and social harms being experienced; explore the risk factors underpinning problem use and harms; and examine the range, nature and suitability of existing treatment and recovery services for younger people.

#### **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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