



Autism

[Survey to inform Autism Commissioner plans](#)

A survey has been launched to seek the views of autistic people, families and professionals on a new independently appointed Commissioner to promote and protect the rights of autistic people. The Scottish Government made a commitment in its Programme for Government to establish an Autism Commissioner. Run by the National Autistic Society Scotland and Scottish Autism, the survey aims to collect views to inform thinking around the Commissioner's role and responsibilities.

Early Learning and Childcare

[Continuous Professional Learning ELC modules available online](#)

Five free continuous professional learning (CPL) modules, commissioned by the Scottish Government, are available to provide focused learning on a range of identified topics for early learning and childcare (ELC) practitioners. Topics available on the modules, accessible in virtual or distance form, include:

- understanding social factors which may impact on children's outcomes in the early years
- supporting parents to further engage in their children's development
- supporting the development and progression of children's early language and literacy

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- building confidence in identifying and responding to additional support needs
- staff skills, knowledge and confidence in delivering learning in STEM subjects.

[Edinburgh Nursery bought by CC Nurseries](#)

Melville House Nursery in Edinburgh has been sold to Mini Rainbows, part of the CC Nurseries group, Nursery World reports. The former nursery had been owned and operated by Meg MacLeod of Childcare Scotland Properties since 2003 and was refurbished before it was put up for sale. It was previously registered for up to 105 children.

[Consultation on regulatory changes to childcare \(England\)](#)

A consultation on proposed regulatory changes to childcare in England has been launched by the UK Government. Proposals include changing staff-to-child ratios from 1:4 to 1:5 for two-year-olds and a package of measures, including working with Ofsted to reduce inspection, to encourage more people into childminding.

Human Rights

[Education Secretary provides update on UNCRC Bill](#)

Education Secretary John Swinney has written to the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee providing an update on work being done regarding the implementation of the UNCRC Incorporation Bill. The letter highlighted the engagement that closed on 17 June, with participants indicating support in principle to proposals to amend the Bill to address the Supreme Court's judgement on the legislation. The letter concludes with Mr Swinney saying he is satisfied to move forward with the process for reconsideration of the Bill.

Infection Prevention and Control

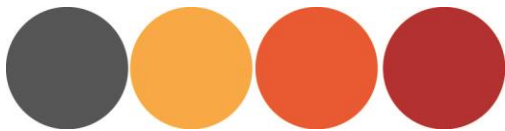
[Thirty-four cases of monkeypox reported in Scotland as of 1 July](#)

Public Health Scotland (PHS) has confirmed there have been 34 laboratory-confirmed cases of monkeypox reported since 23 May in Scotland, as of 1 July. On the same date, the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) reported 1,185 confirmed cases in England, 10 in Wales and six in Northern Ireland. PHS and UKHSA are advising people to be alert to any new rashes or lesions, which appear like spots, ulcers or blisters, on any part of their body.

Justice

[Guide on education for children in custody published \(England\)](#)

New guidelines on education for children in custody in England have been published by the Howard League for Penal Reform and Independent Provider of Special Education Advice. The guide, aimed at professionals across all custodial settings,



notes that more than two-thirds of children in custody have special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and includes advice and guidance on the impact of unidentified SEND on young people in custody, such as speech and language delays.

Looked After and Accommodated Children

[Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry confirms phase 8](#)

The Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry has confirmed Phase 8 of its work will look at residential accommodation used by the state between 1930 and 2014 to accommodate (a) young offenders under the age of 18 (and children and young persons under 18 awaiting trial) and (b) children and young persons under 18 in need of care and protection. This includes:

- residential establishments in Scotland used as approved schools, List D schools, secure accommodation, remand homes, and assessment centres
- borstal institutions, remand institutions, detention centres and young offenders' institutions run by the Scottish Prison Service.

Public hearings will commence in the second half of 2023. The case study will investigate the nature and extent of physical, sexual, psychological and emotional abuse, including the use of corporal punishment, restraint and segregation.

[Whole Family Wellbeing funding for 2022-23 confirmed](#)

Local authorities will receive £32m as part of the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund in 2022-23, the Scottish Government has announced. The funding, part of the Scottish Government's commitment to Keep the Promise, will build services focusing on prevention and early intervention, so families can get support before reaching crisis point. Arrangements for distributing the remaining £12m in the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund are being finalised.

[Routemap and National Principles of Holistic Whole Family Support published](#)

A Routemap and National Principles for delivering Holistic Whole Family Support have been published by the Scottish Government. The Routemap is designed to support delivery of the Vision and Principles of Holistic Whole Family Support to promote consistent standards of practice across Scotland to help deliver improved outcomes for children, young people and families. The Covid-19 Children and Families Collective Leadership Group's blueprint for change in relation to holistic family support has also been published.

[Virtual School Head Teachers in Scotland: Practice Case Studies](#)

The Centre for excellence for Children's Care and Protection (CELCIS) has published a report that provides insight into the of Virtual School Head Teachers (VSHTs) and Care Experienced Teams in Scotland through four case studies. These



provide examples of how VSHTs are used to establish new and alternative ways of supporting care experienced children and young people in their education journey.

[Coram survey looks at care experienced children's contact with families](#)

Coram Voice and the Rees Centre at University of Oxford have published a report on the views and experiences of over 7,500 children and young people in care on their contact with family members and impact on their wellbeing. Staying Connected finds that nearly a third (31%) of children (aged 8-10) and a quarter (25%) of young people (aged 11-18) felt they were seeing their mothers too little, whilst over a fifth (22%) of children and 18% of young people felt they were seeing their fathers too little. Visits being arranged at inconvenient times, long distances and the costs of travel were amongst the reasons given by young people as to why they seen their family less often than they wanted to. The report makes seven key recommendations to try and combat the issues raised.

[Committee reports on education of children in residential care \(England\)](#)

A report on the education of children in residential care has been published by a committee at Westminster. The Education Committee describes “system-wide failings” resulting in looked-after children receiving “inadequate and unacceptable education”, with problems compounded by a “black hole” of data in the care system. Among the findings, the Committee highlights the number of children living in unregulated accommodation in England and calls for the UK Government to reconsider the role of profit making in relation to the ownership of children’s homes.

[Documentary on children in care \(England/Wales\)](#)

A documentary exploring the experiences of children in care is available on BBC iPlayer. The hour long documentary was filmed over three years and is presented by actor Michael Sheen.

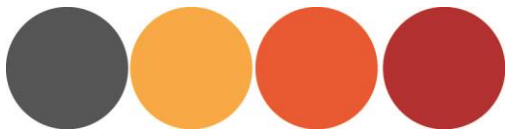
Mental Health

[SPICe briefing on suicide and self-harm](#)

A short briefing on suicide and self-harm has been published by the Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe). The briefing suggests the issues are likely to be prominent in policy during the rest of this year and throughout 2023, with the publication of a new suicide prevention strategy due later this year.

[Draft Mental Health Bill published for pre-legislative scrutiny \(England\)](#)

The UK Government has published a draft Mental Health Bill, intending to give effect to the policy approaches outlined in Sir Simon Wessely’s independent review of the Mental Health Act. The Bill aims to modernise the legislation for the 21st century and give people greater control over their treatment. The Bill also aims to make it easier for people with learning disabilities and autism to be discharged from hospital.



Play

[Play Well Podcast: Risky Play](#)

The new episode of Play Scotland's Play Well Podcast explores risky play. The episode features Tim Gill, an independent scholar, writer and consultant on childhood, and a global advocate for children's play and mobility.

[Early Level Play Pedagogy Online Blether – 30 August](#)

Education Scotland is hosting an Early level Play Pedagogy Blether event on 30 August from 4-5pm. The event is free to attend and is an opportunity to learn about the updated Early Level Play Pedagogy Toolkit that will be published in July 2022.

Other Health and Social Care

[Participants wanted for mapping trauma training](#)

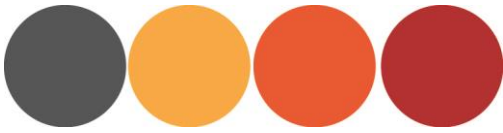
The Scottish Government has commissioned research to understand the current landscape of trauma training across the children and families workforce. Conducting the research, Andthen is looking to understand certain learning pathways within the Children and Families workforce and is in search of frontline workers to talk to about their experience. Specifically, they are looking at how trauma training is addressed in people's learning (if at all), with the aim to provide recommendations on where learning materials on trauma can be enhanced or introduced. They are especially interested in talking to those working in Fostering and Adoption.

[Together joins organisations responding to UK Human Rights Act](#)

Together, the Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights, has joined 126 other Scottish organisations in responding to the UK Government's proposal to change the Human Rights Act. In a statement signed by leading and grassroots women's, children's, refugee and trafficking, housing and homelessness and human rights organisations, the UK Government is urged to reconsider the proposed reforms and instead consider what can be done to better protect human rights for all in Scotland and across the UK.

[Voluntary sector development fund open for applications](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has announced that applications are now open for the 2022/23 Voluntary Sector Development Fund (VSDF). The fund is administered by the SSSC on behalf of the Scottish Government and supports voluntary sector organisations providing social services that are registered with the Care Inspectorate. There is around £900,000 available during 2022/23 to contribute to costs associated with staff meeting the required registration qualification criteria set by the SSSC. The deadline for completed applications is 2 September 2022.



[Boris Johnson standing down](#)

Boris Johnson is to stand down as Conservative leader but intends to carry on as Prime Minister until the autumn, the BBC reports. Mr Johnson plans to stay in post until a new Tory leader has been elected to replace him.

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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