



## Child Protection

### [Updated guidance to safeguard Ukrainian refugees](#)

The Scottish Government has updated public protection guidance for all practitioners involved in safeguarding of children and adults who are arriving in Scotland from Ukraine. The guidance sets out the current safeguarding challenges presented by the arrival of vulnerable children and adults from Ukraine into Scotland and outlines the approach to: identifying; supporting and maximising safety; the principles that should be applied and the legal frameworks underpinning practice.

## Early Learning and Childcare

### [Childminders urged to register for Milk and Healthy Snack Scheme](#)

The Scottish Government is keen for more childminders to register for the Scottish Milk and Healthy Snack Scheme (SMHSS), the Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) has highlighted. The SMHSS, funded by the Scottish Government and administered by local authorities, replaced the original UK Nursery Milk Scheme in Scotland in August last year. According to the Scottish Government, uptake is low among childminders when compared to other childcare settings. The SCMA has produced a flowchart to help determine whether a childcare setting is eligible, and how to proceed with registration, including contact details for each local authority.

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### [Survey to inform development of one-stop-shop school age childcare platform](#)

A survey to understand the supply and demand of school age childcare has been launched to inform development of a one-stop-shop school age childcare platform. As one of this year's CivTech 6.0 Challenge sponsors, the Scottish Government is working with [Caerus](#) to develop a platform where providers can advertise their services and give families a convenient and secure means of finding and booking them. The Scottish Government will be able to use data from the platform to inform policy decisions and help understand the needs of families across the country. Caerus is seeking input from school age childcare providers to ensure the platform meets their needs.

### [Results of SOSCN Summer 2022 membership survey](#)

The Scottish Out of School Care Network (SOSCN) has published the findings of its latest summer survey of members. 84 responses were received, with 70% of organisations reporting staff losses within the past 6 months, 63% of services having difficulty recruiting staff, and 22% running between 80 and 100% capacity. 58% of services said that they were currently covering costs.

### [4 Nations Out of School Childcare Forum launches new website](#)

The UK 4 Nations Out of School Childcare Forum has launched a new website. The Forum, established in 2021, is comprised of the national intermediary organisations representing and supporting out of school childcare in the UK's 4 nations, including SOSCN.

### [Law firm expects to take action on behalf of 100 nurseries over Covid losses](#)

A law firm is expecting to act on behalf of 100 nurseries over the failure of insurers to pay out due to Covid-19 closures, Nursery World reports. Fieldfisher is planning to push ahead with legal action against insurance broker Pound Gates for recommending business interruption insurance policies that failed to pay out during the pandemic, with 70 nurseries signed up to date. The law firm expects the action to eventually include around 100 nurseries.

## **Education**

### [New report on Scottish Attainment Challenge published](#)

The Education, Children and Young People Committee at the Scottish Parliament has published a report on the Scottish Attainment Challenge. The report recommends the Scottish Government set out how it will establish a national baseline for measuring progress in closing the attainment gap and work with local authorities to examine the impact of the tapered reduction in challenge funding. It makes further recommendations on recruitment and retention issues, ensuring teachers, parents and pupils are at the centre of spending plans, investigating variations in education performance, and evaluating the performance of regional improvement collaboratives,



## Justice

### [CYCJ publishes annual report](#)

The Children and Young People's Centre for Justice (CYCJ) has published its annual report for 2021-2022. The report provides an overview of achievements, developments and events during the year, including the first ever online National Youth Justice Conference.

- The CYCJ has also published the July edition of its [e-bulletin](#).

### [Improving legal support for children in conflict with the law emerging findings](#)

Emerging findings from a study on legal support for children in conflict with the law have been set out in a blog on the Clan Childlaw website. Dr Claire Lightowler has shared findings from a scoping study funded through The Promise Partnership's 'A Good Childhood' fund to better understand the legal needs of children and young people in conflict with the law. Initial interviews have been conducted with professionals from across law, social work, justice and prisons and police. Initial findings have highlighted that legal support for children and young people should focus on the individual rather than the process, and be fluid and responsive. Legal gaps and issues have been identified, including in relation to deprivation of liberty orders and cross border placements. The study will be finalised in September.

## Looked After and Accommodated Children

### [Child protection guidance for independent school proprietors](#)

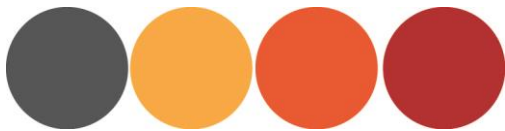
The Scottish Government has published guidance for independent school proprietors who are obliged to ensure that their school is appropriately resourced and structured to safeguard the welfare of learners. The guidance has been developed following reflection on evidence presented during the sixth stage of the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry, which focused on boarding schools in Scotland. The guidance should be read alongside the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2021 and The Registration of Independent Schools in Scotland: Guidance for Applicants, Proprietors, and Parents.

### [Results of survey on cost-of-living crisis impact on foster carers](#)

The results of a survey on the impact of the cost-of-living crisis on foster carers has been published by FosterWiki. According to the survey of 1036 foster carers across the UK, 89% said they are having to cut back on money spent on children due to the cost-of-living crisis, while 2.5% are using food banks. Over half of those responding (54%) said they are considering giving up fostering due to the economic situation.

### [Children's Commissioner publishes children's home reform plan of action \(England\)](#)

The Children's Commissioner for England has published a report setting out a minimum set of expectations for every child living in a children's home and what



children's homes need to provide from the perspective of the child. The report calls for a "transformative approach" which "raises the basic expectations we have of homes, and is more innovative in blurring the lines between institutions and homes, so children can be cared for in an environment which feels like home, while maintaining links with friends, family, and school wherever possible".

## **Workforce**

### [Call for views to inform review of SSSC Codes of Practice](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has launched a call for views as it reviews its Codes of Practice to ensure they are fit for the future and align with the Health and Social Care Standards. Before drafting the new Codes, the SSSC is gathering views and feedback from employers, workers and people with experience of care on what they think of the current Codes, how they use them and what might improve them. The deadline for feedback is Monday 31 October. The SSSC will use the feedback gathered to draft updated Codes, which will go out for formal consultation in summer 2023, with the new codes expected in early 2024.

### [Free information events on new National Leadership Development Programme](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council is to host several free information sessions ahead of the launch of a new leadership development programme (NLDP) for health and social care staff launching in October. The NLDP will offer a range of leadership development opportunities and support for health, social care, and social work staff, including community events, tailored support for communities of practice and talent management tools. The free sessions will take place in August and September.

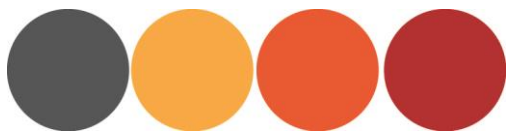
### [Revised Code of Practice for international recruitment published](#)

The Scottish Government has published a revised Scottish Code of Practice for the international recruitment of health and social care personnel. The update is designed to: address concerns around best practice benchmarks to ensure fairness and consistency in employment contracts; set out the routes of escalation for concerns about exploitative recruitment; provide more clarity on how the code applies to different international recruitment models; introduce a knowledge test for recruiting organisations applying to be on the Ethical Recruiters List.

## **Other Health and Social Care**

### [Care Inspectorate appoints permanent Chief Nurse](#)

Marie Mckerry has been appointed to the permanent post of Chief Nurse for the Care Inspectorate after holding this post on an interim basis. Marie brings a wealth of experience of nursing in public health, community and social care settings. She will work in partnership with registered services to support quality improvement. The Chief Nurse works across the life span and across all disciplines of nursing.



### [Care Inspectorate publishes quarter 1 statistical report](#)

The Care Inspectorate Statistical Summary Report for Quarter 1 of 2022/23 has now been released. This presents data, updated on a quarterly basis, on the number of registered care services, new registrations and cancellations, complaints about care services and quality theme grades all by care service type and/or service sector.

### [Study finds young fathers want support to play more active role in family life](#)

Young fathers want to play a more active role in family life and receive fairer treatment around employment issues, according to a study published by Leeds Trinity University. Conducted in collaboration with DaddiLife, the County Councils Network and Leeds City Council, the study focuses on young fathers' experiences of employment since the outbreak of Covid-19 and the implications for the future. It found that while young fathers see the importance of providing financially as a parent is important, they do not see breadwinning as their only role, but some face challenges in finding work, staying in work, and managing home and work life. The researchers call for changes to employment policy, offering flexible working and time off for parental leave, as well as more choice and support around paternity leave.

#### **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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