

4 – 10 November 2022



bulletin



Child Protection

[Consultation on draft Bairns' Hoose standards closes](#)

The 12-week consultation on the Bairns' Hoose draft standards has now concluded. This has been an important phase of the wider standards development programme, which is being delivered by the Care Inspectorate and Healthcare Improvement Scotland. Responses will be considered in the coming weeks, with the final standards due to be published in February 2023.

[Commission publishes plan to protect teens from harm \(England\)](#)

An independent commission to evidence and design a new national system to support vulnerable young people in England to succeed in life has published its findings. The Commission on Young Lives has published a national plan of action to support vulnerable teenagers and protect them from adversity, exploitation and harm. The Commission proposes a new 'Sure Start Plus for Teenagers' network at the centre of a wide range of recommendations to address issues in children's social care, education, family support, children's mental health and criminal justice systems.

[Child Protection](#)

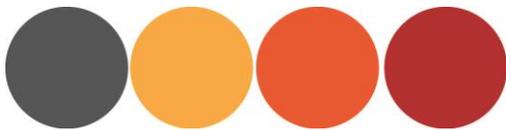
[Early Learning and
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Early Learning and Childcare

[Latest ELC expansion progress report published](#)

The latest Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) Expansion Delivery Progress Report has been published by the Scottish Government, COSLA and the Improvement Service. According to the report, 93,902 children were accessing funded ELC as of the first week of September 2022. Of these, 91,465 children (97%) were accessing more than 600 hours, and 83,237 children (89%) were accessing 1140 hours funded ELC. There has been a year-on-year increase (3%) in numbers of 2- to 5-year-old children reported to be accessing funded ELC. The local authority ELC workforce has increased by 8,540 FTE since academic year 2016/17, though there has been a reduction of 305 FTE since April 2022. Funded providers in the private and voluntary sectors and childminders provide 31% of all funded provision.

[Committee sets out ELC budget findings to Scottish Government](#)

A committee at the Scottish Parliament has set out the findings of its 2023/24 budget scrutiny in relation to early learning and childcare. The Education, Children and Young People Committee recommends a mapping exercise be carried out to establish whether there is a risk to the delivery of ELC expansion due to staff capacity in the PVI sector. The Committee also asks the Scottish Government for an update on: the review of setting rates; how flexibility for parents and carers is being achieved; and work with local authorities to support local assessment of ELC's contribution to outcomes under the three aims of the programme.

[Survey suggests childminders oppose agency plans \(England\)](#)

A survey of nearly 1,600 childminders in England suggests a majority are opposed to the UK Government's plans to "encourage the growth of childminder agencies" as part of wider reforms. Of those registered with Ofsted, 79% said that it was either somewhat (12%) or very (67%) unlikely that they will join a childminding agency in the future, while 77% said that they would leave the profession if it became compulsory to join an agency. The survey was led by the Early Years Alliance.

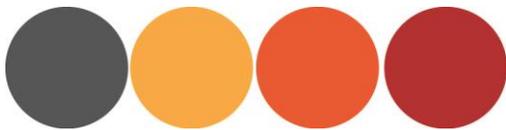
Looked After and Accommodated Children

[Latest volume of Scottish Journal of Residential Child Care as it celebrates 20th year](#)

The Autumn 2022 edition of the Scottish Journal of Residential Child Care has been published by the Centre for excellence for Children's Care and Protection (CELCIS). This issue's leading article, by James Anglin, Emeritus Professor of Child and Youth Care at the University of Victoria in Canada, was specially commissioned to celebrate the journal's 20th year.

[Call for end to profit-making in children's social care across UK](#)

Campaign group Article 39 has called for profit-making the children's social care system to be "proactively and determinedly curtailed", Children & Young People Now



reports. Responding to a consultation on Welsh proposals for only not-for-profit residential and foster care to be commissioned, Article 39 said there is “an overwhelming, child-centred case for local authorities being directly responsible for arranging, running, and managing the vast majority of homes for children in the care of the state”. The campaign group also cited [a study](#) by the University of Oxford which found that for-profit children’s homes are “generally rated of lower quality than other provision types” when it comes to Ofsted inspection.

[Article explores characteristics of children entering care \(England\)](#)

An article exploring the characteristics of children entering care in England has been published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). The article uses the Growing up in England dataset (2011 to 2015) to compare children in care to those not in care across a wide range of areas, including health, education, housing and family circumstances.

Mental Health

[Analysis of access to counsellors and community mental health services](#)

The Scottish Government has published an analysis of access to counsellors in secondary schools and children and young people’s community mental health services from July to December 2021. In total across all returns, 12,149 children and young people were recorded as having accessed counselling services. Community-based supports and services were accessed by a total of 17,786 children and young people, as well as 792 family members and carers.

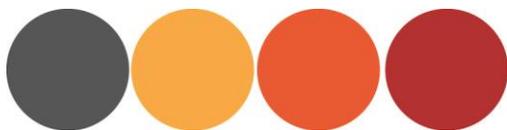
National Care Service

[Focus on children’s services as National Care Service Bill scrutiny continues](#)

The possible inclusion of children’s services in the National Care Service was the subject of a meeting of the Edinburgh, Children and Young People Committee this week. The Committee is one of several taking oral evidence as the [National Care Service \(Scotland\) Bill](#) is scrutinised at Stage 1. Care Inspectorate Chief Executive Jackie Irvine gave evidence to the Committee on a panel alongside representatives from COSLA, The Promise and Social Work Scotland.

[Report looks at Self-directed Support as ‘foundation’ of National Care Service](#)

The charity In Control has published a report exploring Self-directed Support as “the foundation” of a proposed National Care Service in relation to services for children, young people and families. The report is designed to help people working in social care to think about the values and principles of SDS in an accessible and relationship-focused way when working with people and families.



Other Health and Social Care

[New Open Badge for safe and effective staffing](#)

We have introduced a new Open Badge award for safe and effective staffing. An Open Badge is a digital certificate which recognises learning and achievement. Developed in direct response to social care sector interest and accessible on the SSSC Open Badge website, the Safe and Effective Open Badge involves four hours of learning with four different outcomes:

- knowledge of the Health and Care (Staffing)(Scotland) Act 2019 and the guiding principles and duties
- knowledge and understanding of the Care Inspectorate's Safe staffing programme
- knowledge on how the legislation applies to your care setting
- knowledge at an informed level of the fundamentals of health and care staffing, workload and workforce planning, managing and using workload and workforce data and quality assurance and governance.

[Guidance on play in healthcare settings published by RCN](#)

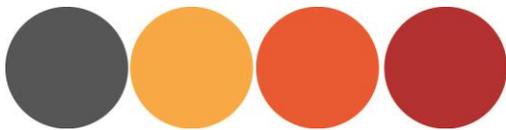
Guidance on supporting and promoting play in healthcare settings has been published by the Royal College of Nursing (RCN). This guidance is designed to support staff working across health and care settings on the use of play materials and equipment to safely facilitate play.

[Latest annual State of Caring report published](#)

Carers UK has published the latest edition of its annual State of Caring report. As the cost of living crisis, the survey covers the impact of caring on health, experiences of using support services and the challenges of juggling work and care. Among the recommendations is a call for a funded National Carers Strategy for England, including matched funding for similar strategies across the UK. The report also recommends that employers use the Carer Positive benchmark run in Scotland.

[UK 174th in global children's rights index](#)

The UK has been ranked 174 in the annual report of the KidsRights Index, which ranks nations around the world in relation to how children's rights are respected and to what extent countries are committed to improving the rights of children. According to the report, produced in co-operation with Erasmus University, there has been "no significant progress in the standards of children's lives and rights across the world over the last decade". While the UK ranks relatively highly for health (38-39), life (27), education (15) and protection (35), its environment ranking is 181-184.



[CPAG publishes Cost of Child report for 2022](#)

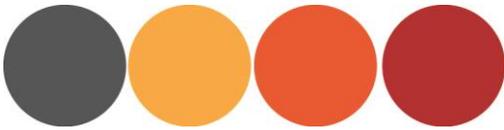
The Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG) has published its latest annual Cost of a Child report. The 2022 report finds that the cost of raising a child to age 18 is nearly £160,000 for a couple and over £200,000 for a lone parent, with childcare an increasingly large component of this cost. According to the report, cuts to the value of social security between April 2021 and April 2022 mean that families have experienced “the biggest deterioration in living standards since Cost of a Child reports began ten years ago”. Childcare now comprises around 60% of the lifetime cost of a child for a couple working full time, compared to around 40% in 2012.

[Working definition of trauma-informed practice](#)

A guidance note providing a working definition of trauma-informed practice has been published by the UK Office for Health Improvement and Disparities. Developed to support those working in health and social care, the definition presented reflects the original internationally recognised definition developed by the United States Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and will be kept under review and updated where appropriate to reflect new evidence.

[Westminster committee to investigate impact of UK asylum policy](#)

A Westminster committee has launched an inquiry examining the UK Government’s policies and procedures relating to asylum seekers and the impact these have on their human rights. The Joint Committee on Human Rights will examine the UK’s approach to safe and legal routes for asylum seekers, the treatment of those arriving in the UK and attempts to relocate them outside of the UK. It will also examine the treatment of asylum seekers once in the UK, including treatment in short-term holding facilities, conditions in detention, accommodation, restrictions on movement, and the right to work.

**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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