

3 – 9 February 2023



[Child Protection](#)

[Early Learning and  
Childcare](#)

[Education](#)

[Looked After and  
Accommodated Children](#)

[Mental Health](#)

[Other Health and Social  
Care](#)

## Child Protection

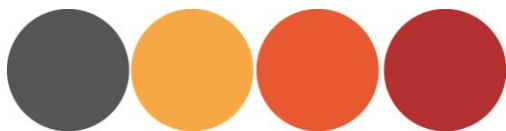
### [NSPCC shares advice and insights to mark Safer Internet Day](#)

The NSPCC has highlighted its online safety resources for parents and carers to mark Safer Internet Day 2023 (7 February). Information and advice covers topics such as social media, online gaming, parental controls, sharing nudes and online reporting.

## Early Learning and Childcare

### [SCMA launches second phase of targeted recruitment campaign](#)

The Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) has launched the second phase of a campaign to recruit new registered childminders in targeted urban and rural areas. This campaign aims to recruit new childminders in specific areas where they are most needed, building on a 2022 campaign which, according to the SCMA, has seen almost 60 new childminders complete or apply for registration with the Care Inspectorate to establish new businesses in remote and rural areas.



### [Webinar on cyber security for childminders](#)

The National Cyber Security Centre is hosting a webinar on 2 March to share cyber security top tips with childminders. The free webinar is supported by the Scottish Government, Education Scotland, Scottish Childminding Association and the Care Inspectorate, as part of [Cyber Scotland Week](#).

### [Webinar on raising awareness of Tax-Free Childcare](#)

A webinar to support awareness raising of Tax-Free Childcare is to be hosted by Hemsall on behalf of HMRC. The free webinar is aimed at local authorities or any family-facing professional, providing an overview of the scheme and how it could better benefit children and families.

## **Education**

### [Scottish Government announces measures to protect school hours](#)

Education Secretary Shirley-Anne Somerville announced plans to protect teacher and pupil support staff numbers this week, as part of plans to protect teaching numbers. Additional annual funding of £145.5 million is being provided to maintain increased teacher numbers and support staff. The Cabinet Secretary confirmed that in 2023-24, if this is not delivered by a local authority, the Scottish Government will withhold or recoup funding allocated for these purposes. Regulations are also set to be introduced to enshrine a statutory minimum number of school hours

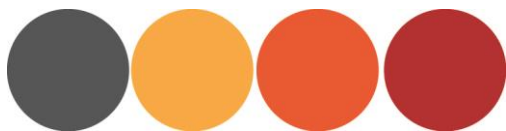
## **Looked After and Accommodated Children**

### [Committee launches call for evidence on Children \(Care and Justice\) Bill](#)

A call for evidence has been launched on a Bill proposing changes to law in relation to the care of children and the involvement of children in the criminal justice system. The [Children \(Care and Justice\) Bill](#) would introduce a range of provisions, including amending the Children's Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011 to ensure all under 18s will be children for the purposes of the children's hearings system, making the framework for approval of secure accommodation "clearer, simpler and more transparent", and measures relating to the registration of relevant care services with a view to addressing issues in relation to the hosting of cross border placements. The Education, Children and Young People Committee is seeking views on the Bill and how it will affect young people, with the consultation closing on 17 March.

### [The Promise marks three years since publication of Independent Care Review report](#)

The Promise has marked three years since the publication of the Independent Care Review's conclusions. Fiona McFarlane, Head of Public Affairs for The Promise, has reflected on the work done to date in implementing the Review and highlights that there is "still lots to do", stressing the importance of national government, local



government and other public bodies “owning the work” to ensure things improve for the care community and families.

#### [Midpoint evaluation of project to support care experienced parents](#)

A midpoint evaluation of a project to support care experienced parents of young children, and parents to be, on their journey from pregnancy to parenthood has been published by Early Years Scotland (EYS). A partnership between EYS, Care Visions and Scottish Attachment in Action, the Village project was developed as part of The Promise and acts as an accessible, independent online community providing knowledge and support to care experienced parents and parents-to-be.

#### [UK Government publishes children’s social care strategy and consultation \(England\)](#)

A strategy setting out a range of proposals for children’s social care has been published by the UK Government. The strategy, which follows a number of independent reviews, includes a large number of proposed actions, including establishing a Children’s Social Care National Framework (setting national standards and outcomes) and working with Ofsted to ensure inspection is aligned with this. The UK Government has rejected the recommendation that care experience should be made a protected characteristic. The consultation closes on 11 May.

### **Mental Health**

#### [Children’s Mental Health Week continues](#)

Children’s Mental Health Week continues until 12 February, with a range of related resources made available by the Place2Be charity. Marking the event, the Scottish Children’s Services Coalition has written a letter highlighting the “overwhelming and unprecedented pressures” on mental health services and calling for renewed efforts to ensure children receive adequate mental health support.

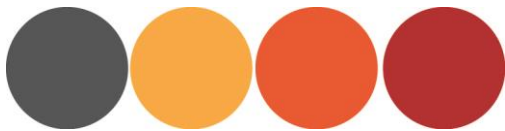
#### [New online platform launched to support young black people’s mental health](#)

The new online platform Bayo - meaning “joy has found us” in Yoruba – will provide tailored support and care for black young people, offering culturally appropriate and accessible services from black-led organisations and collectives, reports Children and Young People Now. The online space aims to bring together UK services which specifically cater to the black community, and provide a space for young people to seek recovery. Bayo, launched on 8 January, was developed in partnership with the Ubele Initiative, Mind, Young Minds, Best Beginnings, and the National Emergencies Trust.

### **Other Health and Social Care**

#### [Scottish Government publishes final report of Supporting Roots project](#)

The Scottish Government has published the final report of the Supporting Roots project. The project was commissioned by the Scottish Government in recognition of



the distinct needs of birth parents who are living apart from their children as a result of child welfare interventions. The report comprises three parts. The first is a short evidence review on support for birth parents and suggests some key principles for practice based on the existing evidence base. The second part presents findings from a small-scale, in-depth qualitative study aimed to better understand birth families' experiences in the Scottish legal and policy context. The third and final part provides information on current practice and services designed to respond to the needs of birth family members, highlighting examples of good practice and possible network and knowledge exchange opportunities.

#### [Together publishes 2023 report on children's rights](#)

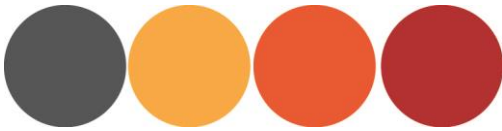
Together Scotland has published its 2023 report into the State of Children's Rights in Scotland. The report was prepared to inform the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child to help prepare for its review of the UK children's rights record in May 2023. The report contains 93 recommendations across general principles, civil rights and freedoms, violence against children, family environment and alternative care, and disability, basic health and welfare.

#### [Appointment to SSSC Council Board](#)

The Scottish Government has announced the appointment of Lindsay MacDonald as a member of the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) board.

#### [Further Committee report on National Care Service Bill](#)

The Scottish Parliament's Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee has published a report considering the delegated powers provisions in the National Care Service (Scotland) Bill. Amongst other conclusions, the Committee states that they do not believe the Bill should progress in its current form, and there is insufficient detail on the face of the Bill and within the Bill documents to allow for meaningful parliamentary scrutiny.

**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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