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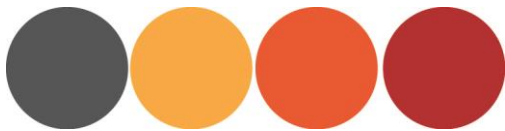
Child Protection

[Survey about protection online](#)

Together Scotland has highlighted a survey by the UN Special Representative of the Secretary General on Violence Against Children on protection through online participation. The survey seeks the views of children and young people on how online platforms can be made safer.

[Research and poll on risks faced by children using virtual reality](#)

The NSPCC has published research assessing what present and future risks children may face when using virtual reality. The abuse and harm faced by children and young people in these virtual spaces is explored in the research. The charity also commissioned a YouGov poll for adults about children's online safety. 75 per cent of people believe 6-12 year olds are at major or significant risk of sexual abuse in VR immersive spaces, a figure that rose to 80 per cent when asked about 13-16 year olds.



Early Learning and Childcare

[Space to Grow guidance review](#)

The Care Inspectorate is leading a review of the Space to Grow guidance, launched in 2016 in partnership with the Scottish Government and Scottish Futures Trust. The design guidance for daycare of children's services including school aged childcare will be updated following a number of changes across the sector, including learning from the pandemic and ELC expansion. The updated design guide will be delivered by March 2024.

Education

[School strikes called off next week](#)

Members of the GMB union have called off plans to take industrial action in schools, the BBC reports. School staff including janitors and cleaners at ten councils were scheduled to go on strike next week. However, the GMB union said it is considering joint strikes with other trade union members later this month, unless an improved pay offer can be agreed by all 32 councils. The industrial dispute involves non-teaching staff including catering, cleaning, pupil support, administration and janitorial workers in schools and early years centres.

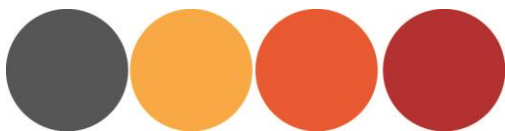
Human Rights & Equalities

[Child-friendly survey on human rights](#)

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights of the United Nations have developed a survey for children to inform the vision of High Commissioner on the future of human rights, as highlighted by Together Scotland. The Children's Advisory Team and children's rights experts will be looking into the replies of the survey and the outcomes will be shared in a public document. The survey is open until 26 September 2023.

[UN Secretary-General guidance note on child rights mainstreaming](#)

Together Scotland has noted the publication of a guidance note by the UN Secretary-General on child rights mainstreaming. The note provides practical guidance to all levels of the United Nations, across all three pillars (development, human rights and peace and security), to Headquarters, regional and field contexts, on how to integrate children's rights within management, programmes and operations.



Mental Health

[Infant mental health webinar for childminders](#)

The Scottish Childminding Association will host a live webinar exploring infant mental health in November. The webinar, which is designed to support childminders' CPD, aims to increase understanding of the importance of key relationships for an infant, and how those relationships can impact their future development. The live online event will take place over two sessions on 8 and 15 November.

Other

[CELCIS publishes latest report on children's services reform](#)

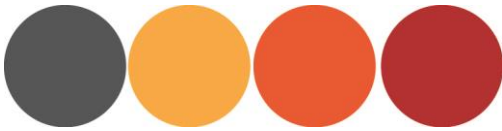
CELCIS has published the third interim report of its research project on the future of children's services, commissioned by the Scottish Government as part of its work on a National Care Service and The Promise. Mapping Integration and Outcomes Across Scotland: A Statistical Analysis focuses on whether there is an association between the type of integration of health and social care services and outcomes for children, young people and families in need of support. Researchers used 25 indicators associated with the welfare and wellbeing of children, support for families and the workforce who support them. The overall conclusion is that, at this stage, no one approach or model has yet shown a significant impact on improving outcomes in the key areas of focus. There were many other identified factors which may impact upon outcomes for children, young people and their families, either due to policy interventions, cultural shifts or socio-economic changes.

[Programme for Government 2023-24](#)

The First Minister Humza Yousuf announced the Programme for Government for 2023-24 this week, with a focus on measures to expand childcare provision as part of a package of measures to tackle poverty and support economic growth. Funding was announced for six early adopter areas for childcare from nine months to the end of primary school. The First Minister also confirmed plans to expand childcare for two year olds, give parents more control over childcare and childminder recruitment. Funding was announced for ELC staff in private, voluntary, independent sectors to be paid at least £12 an hour from April 2024. Over the next year, legislation will be introduced for the establishment of a new public body responsible for qualifications in Scotland and the creation of an independent education inspectorate. There will also be a Human Rights Bill and the reintroduction of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill.

[SSSC report offers snapshot of registered workforce](#)

The SSSC has published a report on its Register data for the first time, providing an insight into the social work, social care and children and young people workforce. The report shows there were 168,232 people on the SSSC Register in March this year, which is an increase of 4,064 on April 2022. The number of people on the Register working in residential childcare services fell by 0.94% between 2022 and



2023. The number of people working in day care of children services on the Register grew by 4.40%.

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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