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Child Protection

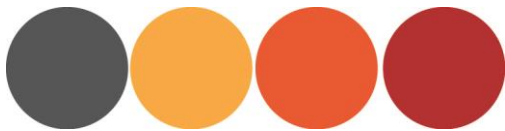
[Joint rapid review of child protection arrangements published \(Wales\)](#)

A joint rapid review of child protection arrangements in Wales has been published by Care Inspectorate Wales. The review looked at to what extent the current structures and processes in Wales ensure children's names are appropriately placed on, and removed from, the child protection register when sufficient evidence indicates it is safe to do. The inspectorates (which included Healthcare Inspectorate Wales and Estyn) found examples of positive practice, including good information sharing between agencies. However, in the latter stages of the child protection process information sharing can be untimely and poor, compounded by agencies having different systems for recording information and workforce instability.

Disabilities

[Statement of intent on National Transitions to Adulthood Strategy](#)

The Scottish Government has published a statement of intent summarising research and engagement to date on developing Scotland's first National Transitions to Adulthood Strategy. The statement sets out actions taken so far and what the Scottish Government has heard it should focus on in developing a strategy to improve the lived experiences of transitions for Scotland's disabled young people. A [summary](#) and [easy read version](#) of the statement have also been published.



[Parliamentary summit to celebrate International Day of Persons with Disabilities](#)

The Scottish Parliament has invited people from across Scotland to attend its first summit to celebrate International Day of Persons with Disabilities in Holyrood. The summit will take place on 25 November, featuring speakers such as Baroness Grey-Thompson DBE, multi-gold medal winner in paralympic sport, and Jim Elder-Woodward OBE, a disabled activist and campaigner for equality and human rights. Those interested in attending in person or online can register [here](#).

Early Learning and Childcare

[More than 38,000 families helped through early learning and school age payments](#)

More than 38,000 payments have been paid to families through the Best Start Grant Early Learning Payment and School Age Payment, according to the Scottish Government. Figures showed that since Social Security Scotland introduced automation of the payments in November last year, 14,825 Early Learning Payments and 23,810 School Age Payments have been made, up to the end of June 2023. Early Learning and School Age Payments, automatically awarded to families who qualify for Scottish Child Payment, are one-off payments of £294.70 to help families as their child grows up, with things like clothes, travel, stationery or toys for learning.

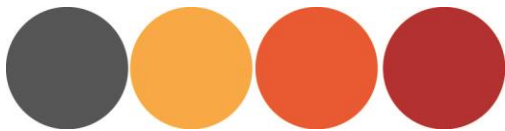
Looked After and Accommodated Children

[Secure care pathway review published by the Care Inspectorate](#)

Timely support is not always available for children and young people with experience of, or who may require, secure care, according to a new report by the Care Inspectorate. The Secure Care Pathway Review found that availability and access to the right kind of educational, legal, health and community support is essential in preventing young people going into or returning to a secure care setting. Between July 2022 and July 2023, we followed the cases of 30 young people who were either experiencing or had previously experienced secure care, or who had been considered by their local authority for a secure care placement, to assess the impact of the support they received over time. During the review inspectors spoke with over 200 people, including young people, their families, staff and managers. The authors highlighted positive examples of staff working together to provide intensive support for young people to help them stay in, or return to, their local communities. A number of key areas for improvement were also identified.

[Fostering Network highlights disparities in foster care funding across UK](#)

Data showing disparities in foster care funding across the UK has been published by the Fostering Network. According to the data, allowances in England, Wales and Scotland vary considerably, with some children receiving up to £198.57 per week less than others. There was the greatest level of variance in the 11-15 years age bracket for England and Wales and the 16-17 years age bracket in Scotland. Overall, England has the greatest variance in allowances, closely followed by Scotland. The



charity is calling for a “more consistent and fair” funding framework in line with inflation across the UK.

[Voluntary adoption agencies create guide for adopting siblings](#)

Voluntary adoption agencies from across the UK, including Coram Adoption, have joined together to create a guide on adopting brothers and sisters. The guide is aimed at people considering adoption and contains information and advice from parents who have already adopted sibling groups.

[Carmel Jacob appointed Care Experienced Chair of Who Cares? Scotland](#)

Carmel Jacob has been appointed as the new Care Experienced Chair of the Board of Who Cares? Scotland. Ms Jacob, an Educational Psychologist, grew up in kinship care and has been a member of Who Cares? Scotland for many years. She takes over the role from Ryan McCuaig.

[Research highlights links between care experience and youth justice involvement \(England\)](#)

Research on the links between care experience, ethnicity and involvement with the youth justice system in England has been published. Carried out by Manchester Metropolitan and Lancaster universities, the longitudinal study looked at four cohorts of children born between 1996 and 1999. According to the findings, care-experienced children were disproportionately likely to have youth justice involvement compared to those without care experience, with one in three of those with experience of the care system receiving a criminal caution or conviction when aged between 10 to 17 compared with 4% of those who were not in care. Findings also suggest that custodial sentences were almost twice as common among black and mixed ethnicity children compared with white children who had been in the care system.

- Barnardo’s has published [a report](#) using the findings to highlight discrimination faced by young Black people in the care system in England. The report is titled Double Discrimination, to reflect discrimination relating to both cultural heritage and being in care.

Mental Health

[CY&P Mental Health and Wellbeing Joint Delivery Board publishes final report](#)

The Children and Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing Joint Delivery Board's final report has been published by the Scottish Government. The JDB, co-chaired by COSLA and the Scottish Government, ran from Spring 2021 to Spring 2023 and focused on eight 'deliverables' in areas including community-based, crisis and neurodevelopmental support, CAMHS, support for children and young people in vulnerable situations, 3-5 year olds, education and training and mental health communications. The final report includes nine Strategic Recommendations, with several supporting recommendations under each of the nine areas.



[Investigation report following death of 18-year-old in hospital](#)

The Mental Welfare Commission has published a report following an investigation into the death of an 18-year-old man in hospital in Scotland. Mr D died in hospital in December 2018 from the consequences of drinking an excessive quantity of water. This happened when he was detained under the Mental Health Act for urgent treatment on an adult ward. The investigation found that “a more assertive approach” to the treatment of Mr D’s psychotic illness in the two years before his death was warranted, and that there were problems in Mr D’s transition from child and adolescent mental health services to adult mental health services.

Workforce

[Consultation on return to practice requirement for social workers](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has launched a consultation on the introduction of return to practice requirements for social workers. The SSSC is proposing, as part of the [Future Proofing Programme](#), return to practice requirements for social workers who have been out of social work practice and not registered for over two years so they can update their knowledge, skills and competence while building their confidence to practice. Social workers returning to practice after more than two years would need to complete the learning within the 12 months before applying to register, with a tiered approach depending on how long they have been out of practice. The consultation closes on 3 November.

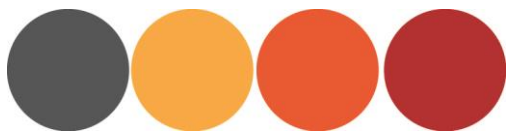
[SSSC consultation on continuous professional learning](#)

The SSSC is also reviewing the requirements for continuous professional learning (CPL) and is seeking views on its proposals for a new CPL process. The SSSC is looking to move away from the current model of recording hours and days, instead focusing on key skills and knowledge needed at different stages of the career journey. A number of other changes are proposed in the new CPL process and the SSSC is hosting online information sessions throughout October for those who want to learn more about the proposed changes. The consultation closes on 3 November.

Other Health and Social Care

[Findings published following Independent Review of Inspection, Scrutiny and Regulation](#)

The Scottish Government has published the findings of the Independent Review of Inspection, Scrutiny and Regulation of Social Care in Scotland (IRISR). The report sets out 38 recommendations across five themes, concluding that there needs to be cultural and legislative changes to systems of inspection, scrutiny, and regulation to one that prioritises improvement, is comprehensive and is consistent in what it inspects, scrutinises and regulates. Social Care Minister Maree Todd said the findings of the review, chaired by Dame Sue Bruce, would be fully considered by the Scottish Government before an update to parliament sets out next steps.



- An [easy read version](#) and [executive summary](#) have also been published, alongside an [analysis report](#) of the call for evidence and [easy read version](#) and [executive summary](#) of that analysis report.

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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