



[Child Protection](#)

[Early Learning and  
Childcare](#)

[Justice](#)

[Looked After and  
Accommodated Children](#)

[Mental Health](#)

[Other Health and Social  
Care](#)

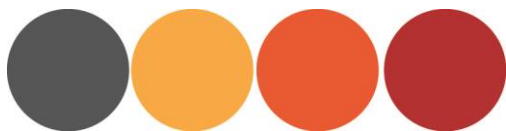
## Child Protection

[Lady Smith discusses latest phase of Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry](#)

The Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry has produced a video explaining the latest phase of its work. Phase 8 is focused on the abuse of children in residential accommodation for young offenders and children, and young persons in need of care and protection. Lady Smith, Chair of the Inquiry, explains more about the approach to the case study, in which hearings are expected to continue through 2024. Hearings relating to establishments run by the Scottish Prison Service start on 31 October 2023, and these will run from then until the end of the year.

[SCRA publishes annual report](#)

The Scottish Children's Reporter Administration has published its Annual Report 2022/23. The report includes the full set of audited Annual Accounts for 2022-23, reflects on highlights and achievements, and a looking ahead section by Principal Reporter/Chief Executive Officer Neil Hunter. A version aimed at children and young people is [also available](#).



### [Children's Hearings Scotland publishes annual impact report](#)

Children's Hearings Scotland has published its latest annual impact report. Developments set out in the report include hearings redesign, law change in relation to children's rights and a learning programme for panel members.

### **Early Learning and Childcare**

#### [Early Learning and Childcare Statistics 2022 published](#)

The Care Inspectorate has published Early Learning and Childcare Statistics 2022, which shows the availability and quality of registered daycare of children and childminding services for children and families across Scotland. This report is based on the ELC services registered with the Care Inspectorate and incorporates evaluations of the quality of these services, as well as additional information from the annual returns completed by service providers. The statistics include longer term trends as well as a focus on changes in the most recent year to 31 December 2022. There were 3,514 daycare of children services as of 31 December 2022, 59 fewer compared to 2021. However, the average size of daycare of children services continued to increase, rising from 50.3 places in 2021 to 51.2 in 2022.

#### [SOSCN launches survey on experience of Care Inspectorate inspections](#)

The Scottish Out of School Care Network (SOSCN) has launched a survey exploring services' experiences of inspections. The survey is primarily aimed at daycare of children services registered with the Care Inspectorate: school age childcare services, nurseries, creches and playgroups, also including specialist services for children with disabilities/ASN/complex needs, and outdoor registered services. The deadline for responses is 1 December.

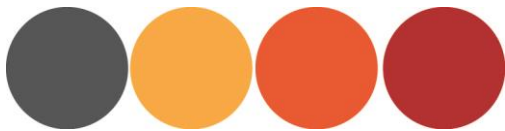
#### [Early Years Scotland writes to First Minister on sector wages](#)

Early Years Scotland Chief Executive Jane Brumpton has written to First Minister Humza Yousaf in light of the announced increase in the Real Living Wage to £12 per hour. Ms Brumpton points to the Scottish Government's recent commitment to raise the wages of the early years workforce to at least £12 per hour and suggests that "what seemed like a positive policy initiative at the time does not now, unfortunately, place relevant value on the early years sector".

### **Justice**

#### [CYCJ publishes info sheet on restorative justice](#)

An information sheet exploring how restorative approaches can improve community cohesion, strengthen relationships and increase public confidence in restorative justice has been published by the Children and Young People's Centre for Justice (CYCJ). Produced in partnership with Education Scotland, the info sheet asks how a shift in culture and mindset can be encouraged as part of a move from punitive to reparative models of justice.



## Looked After and Accommodated Children

### [Focus on The Promise as organisations mark Care Experienced Week in Scotland](#)

Care Experienced Week took place from 22 – 29 October, celebrating the Care Experienced community and this year focusing on their lifelong rights. A number of organisations have published articles marking the Week, with a focus on keeping The Promise a common theme.

- The Promise published articles on the [Moving on Change programme](#), including information on 100 Days of Listening, and reflections on the [Hearings for Children Redesign Report](#) in the lead up to the Scottish Government's formal response.
- CELCIS published a number of articles, including: [How lived experience of care is helping drive Scotland's progress towards keeping The Promise; A Face on a Wall: How embracing 'Artivism' can help young people find their voice; Exploring leadership opportunities for the care experienced community](#).
- The Care Inspectorate published articles on [The Promise in action](#) at Hamlet Farm care home, and a [thank you](#) to our young volunteers.

### [CELCIS writes to committee on Scottish Recommended Allowance](#)

The Centre for excellence for Children's Care and Protection (CELCIS) has written to a parliamentary committee on the Scottish Recommended Allowance for fostering and kinship families. Writing to the Social Security and Social Justice Committee, CELCIS welcomes the introduction of the policy and acknowledges it is still in its initial stages, but makes a number of additional observations, including the need for: clarity on interpretation for the purposes of eligibility, guidance, and sufficient time for local authorities for further implementation.

## Mental Health

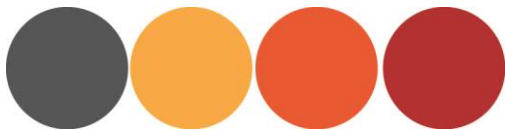
### [Mental Welfare Commission publishes annual report](#)

The Mental Welfare Commission has published its annual report for 2022-23. The report sets out the range of work the Commission completed last year, including a review of advocacy planning across Scotland and its monitoring of admissions of children and young people for mental health treatment in non-specialist wards. According to the report, there were 79 admissions involving 66 young people under the age of 18 being placed in non-specialist mental health wards, compared to 90 admissions involving 88 young people in 2021-22.

## Other Health and Social Care

### [Care Inspectorate Statistical Summary Report for Quarter 2 of 2023/24](#)

The Care Inspectorate Statistical Summary Report for Quarter 2 of 2023/24 has now been released. Updated on a quarterly basis, the report presents data 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.

### [Children's Commissioner publishes report on placing children in hotel-like accommodation](#)

A report on the placement of homeless or asylum seeking children in hotel-like accommodation has been published by the Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland. According to the Commissioner, children in Scotland who are homeless or seeking asylum must not be housed in unsuitable accommodation such as hotels, hostels, B&Bs, cruise ships or barges because their human rights may be violated. Sometimes I Feel Like I am in Prison – Placing Children in Hotel-type Accommodation makes a range of recommendations to support local authorities, asylum accommodation providers, and frontline workers to minimise and mitigate the harm caused to children by these environments.

### [Updated public protection guidance on people arriving from Ukraine](#)

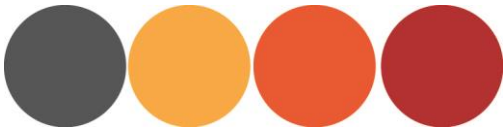
The Scottish Government has updated guidance for all practitioners involved in the identification and safeguarding of children and adults who are arriving in Scotland from Ukraine. The guidance sets out safeguarding challenges associated with displacement and outlines the approach to: identifying concerns; supporting and maximising safety; the principles that should be applied and the legal frameworks underpinning practice.

### [SSSC publishes report following six-monthly social worker vacancy survey](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has published its first six-monthly survey report analysing the landscape of Scotland's filled and vacant social worker and senior social worker posts in local authorities. Requested by the Scottish Government, the report is designed to provide an accurate picture of social work vacancies and is based on a survey of local authority social work services between June and August 2023. Almost all local authorities that responded find it difficult to fill social worker vacancies, with the main reasons being too few applicants and too few applicants with experience or qualifications. There is a 1.3% decrease in the whole time equivalent of practising social worker filled posts compared to December 2022.

### [Programme supporting young people affected by drugs to expand further afield](#)

A programme providing support for young people affected by substance use in their family is being expanded to six new areas of Scotland, the Scottish Government has announced. The Routes programme, run by Scottish Families Affected by Alcohol and Drugs (SFAD), offers one-to-one and group support to people aged 12 to 26 and currently operates in East and West Dunbartonshire. SFAD has now formed a partnership with six other charities which will roll out the programme to East Lothian, Falkirk, Renfrewshire, North Aberdeenshire, North Lanarkshire and Orkney.



## [SPSO publishes Annual Report and Financial Statements](#)

The Scottish Public Services Ombudsman (SPSO) has published its Annual Report and Financial Statements for 2022-23. Highlights include: 3,527 public service complaints received and 3,829 closed; 66% of public service complaint investigations upheld; 350 recommendations made to public bodies, 52% relating to learning and improvement.

### **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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