

3 - 9 November 2023



bulletin



[Disability](#)



[Early Learning and
Childcare](#)

[Education](#)

[Equalities](#)

[Health](#)

[Justice](#)

[Looked After and
Accommodated Children](#)

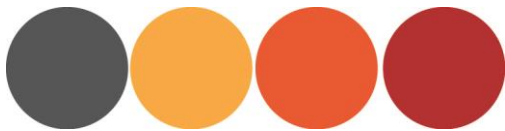
[Mental Health](#)

[Other Health and Social
Care](#)

Disability

[Scotland's British Sign Language National Plan 2023-2029 published](#)

The Health and Social Care Alliance (the ALLIANCE) has highlighted the publication of a new British Sign Language (BSL) National Plan. The Plan covers the period from 2023 to 2029 and sets out the Scottish Government's actions to tackle the barriers faced by the BSL users. It includes commitments to build partnerships and connections to ensure deaf and deafblind children and their families can access BSL support at an early stage, improving accessibility to arts and culture events, in addition to promoting BSL culture, working with Transport Scotland and transport operators on solutions to make public transport easier to use for BSL users, and improving accessibility of the Scottish Government website for BSL users.



Early Learning and Childcare

[Joint update on shared inspection framework](#)

A joint statement has been issued by the Care Inspectorate and Education Scotland on the shared inspection framework for early learning and childcare (ELC). The two organisations are continuing to work together to develop the new shared inspection framework and are committed to publishing the framework and have it operational by September 2024. Later this month, views will be gathered on a draft version of the framework. A pilot phase will begin in January 2024, with the framework used on a number of inspections in ELC settings.

[Consultation on revised Space to Grow guidance](#)

The Care Inspectorate is updating the Space to Grow resource, the Scottish design guidance for premises-based day care of children settings including school aged childcare. Originally published in 2017, the guidance will be reviewed and a revised resource published by the end of March 2024. A [consultation](#) has been opened for all stakeholders to share their views, closing on 6 December.

[SCMA survey on Care Inspectorate inspections](#)

The Scottish Childminding Association has launched a short additional survey on Care Inspectorate inspections, the results of which will be shared alongside findings from the Scottish Out of School Care Network (SOSCN) survey, as well as similar consultations by Early Years Scotland, NDNA and the Care and Learning Alliance. The results of all the surveys from each organisation will be collated and shared with the Care Inspectorate.

Education

[Recommendations for education from International Council](#)

The Scottish Government has published the third formal report of the International Council of Education Advisers. The report reviews the major recommendations made in the previous report, published in 2020, and recommends actions that should be prioritised. Recommendations are made in a variety of areas, including teaching professional learning, engagement of students, families and communities, and governance and leadership.

[Ministerial statement on education reform](#)

Education Secretary Jenny Gilruth this week delivered a statement to Parliament relating to education reform as the Government continues to work towards delivery of the recommendations of Professor Ken Muir and other subsequent reports. During the statement Ms Gilruth announced [a consultation](#) had been published on the provisions of an Education Bill, seeking views on the creation of a new national qualifications body and new approaches to inspection. She also announced plans to establish:



- a ministerial group to advise on education and skills reform
- an education and skills reform chief executive forum
- a new centre for teaching excellence, learning from the CELCIS model.

Justice

[Pilot aims to better prepare children and young people for Children's Hearings](#)

The 'Taking Control of my Hearing' pilot has been launched in Fife, which proactively invites children and young people to a Pre-Hearing visit which includes more in-depth Pre-Hearing planning. During the pilot, a scrapbook will be sent out to children and young people age six years and over who are coming to their very first Hearing in Fife. The Scrapbook has been designed to better prepare children and young people and to empower them to take control of their Hearing. The pilot is part of a Keeping the Promise project.

[New delivery plan for Vision for Justice in Scotland](#)

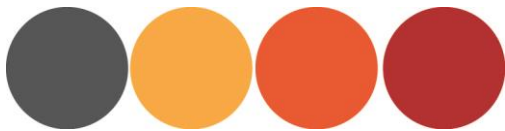
The Scottish Government has published the [Vision for Justice In Scotland: three year delivery plan](#) setting out a programme of reforms that are being taken forward to March 2026. The delivery plan sets out a number of actions and milestones to be achieved by 2025/2026, including the introduction of a new misogyny bill, a refresh of the trafficking and exploitation strategy, and ending the placement of under 18s in Young Offenders' Institutions. A [Measurement Framework](#) setting out how the Vision for Justice in Scotland will be delivered has also been published.

Mental Health

[Delivery plan for improving mental health and wellbeing](#)

The Scottish Government has published the Mental Health and Wellbeing Delivery Plan 2023-2025, following the release of the Government's strategy earlier this year. The Plan includes a number of actions related to the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people, including:

- By spring 2024, redevelop online mental health and wellbeing self-help and support content, to respond to the needs of children and young people, and their parents and carers.
- Over the next 18 months, work with children, young people, parents, carers and other partners to reduce the potentially harmful impacts of social media, especially in relation to body image.
- Work with the Mental Health in Schools Working Group to monitor the use and impact of the mental health and wellbeing support provided through education settings.



- Develop new health and wellbeing resources for staff to support the emotional and wellbeing resilience of school age children.

Other Health and Social Care

[Call for views on the impact of the Self-directed Support Act](#)

The Health, Social Care and Sport Committee is undertaking an inquiry into how the Social Care (Self-directed Support) (Scotland) Act 2013 has worked since it came into force. The Act aims to ensure that care and support is arranged, managed and delivered in a way that supports choice and control for individuals, and places a duty on local authorities to offer options to those who have been assessed as needing a community care service on how support is provided to them. The Committee is seeking views from people who have a view on or have experience of self-directed support. A [BSL version](#) of the inquiry has also been launched. The call for views will close on 5 January 2024.

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.

It should also be noted that the Care Inspectorate has no liability in respect of the content of external websites which may be signposted on this site.