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Early Learning and Childcare

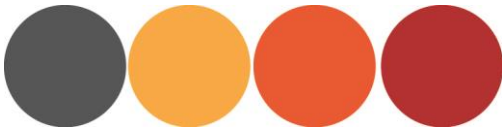
Impact assessments for school age childcare plans

The Scottish Government has published a [Child Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment](#) and [Equality Impact Assessment](#) for the School Age Childcare Programme. The Programme is a set of plans to deliver the Scottish Government's commitment to build a system of school age childcare offering care before and after school, and during the holidays.

Education

Inquiry into Ofsted calls for one-word judgements to be scrapped (England)

An inquiry into school inspections by Ofsted suggests the system needs “transformational” reform, including an end to single-word judgements such as “outstanding” or “inadequate”. The Beyond Ofsted inquiry, chaired by former UK Minister for Schools Lord Knight, said these judgements were too simplistic to describe a whole school. The inquiry also recommended stopping Ofsted from having direct contact with schools, who should draw up their own improvement plans to be accountable to parents and the wider community.



Health

[Scottish Government launches vaping campaign and framework](#)

A new campaign has been launched by the Scottish Government to highlight the health dangers of vaping to parents, carers and school pupils. The marketing campaign was launched alongside a new Tobacco and Vaping Framework, which sets out how Scotland could be tobacco-free by 2034. Plans include raising the age limit for sales of tobacco and improving services to help people quit smoking. A review of what further action is needed to limit the appeal of vapes children, young people and non-smokers will also continue during the first phase of the framework.

Human Rights and Equalities

[Committee publishes findings on UNCRC Bill scrutiny](#)

The Scottish Parliament's Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee has published views on the reconsideration of the UNCRC (Incorporation) Bill following scrutiny of the Scottish Government's planned amendments to the original Bill. In a letter to Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Shirley Anne Somerville, the Committee echoes the support of rights organisations and duty bearers for the Bill, though calls on the Government to make resources available to support rights holders and others to navigate what will become a complex landscape. The Committee also notes forthcoming Human Rights Bill and asks Ministers to reflect on learning from the UNCRC process in relation to legislative competence.

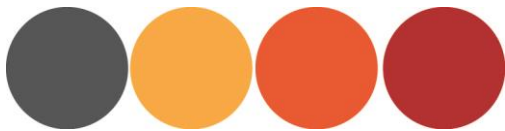
[Research on how children participate in UNCRC monitoring around the world](#)

Together Scotland has published new research, together with the Edinburgh Law School, on children's participation in the UNCRC monitoring process. The report aims to explore practice in Scotland and other jurisdictions to draw learning as Scotland moves to incorporate the UNCRC. The report includes 17 areas for improvement in current practices of children's participation in the reporting and monitoring of the UNCRC, including investing in research on how to include babies and young er children, and support former participants to harness their knowledge of the UNCRC to inform new rights advocates.

Justice

[CYCJ survey on future priorities](#)

The Children and Young People's Centre for Justice has launched a stakeholder survey on shaping the Centre's future work. They are seeking views on what the CYCJ should prioritise in 2024 and in the next 5-year strategy. They are keen to hear from children and young people, parents of children who have come into conflict with the law, members of community councils and practitioners who work with children and young people in conflict with the law. The deadline for responses is 21 December.



[Social Work Scotland response to review on child criminal exploitation](#)

Social Work Scotland has published its submission to a [review](#) into child criminal exploitation, led by Professor Alexis Jay and Action for Children. The submission strongly supports a national multi-agency strategy for responding to child criminal exploitation and highlights the range of challenges currently facing the social work workforce. Cross boundary and border challenges are also raised. The review is due to report next spring.

Looked After and Accommodated Children

[Parliamentary Committee hears evidence on The Promise](#)

This week, the Education, Children and Young People Committee at the Scottish Parliament heard evidence from a range of witnesses on The Promise. Kevin Mitchell, Executive Director for Scrutiny and Assurance at the Care Inspectorate, appeared with Mike Burns, representing Social Work Scotland, and Fraser McKinlay, Chief Executive of The Promise Scotland. Areas covered during questioning included:

- Strategic investment plan and for priorities
- Whole Family Wellbeing Fund
- The commitment to Keep the Promise by 2030
- Work in schools to Keep the Promise
- Early deaths of care experienced children and young people
- New reporting procedures on physical restraint
- Sharing and embedding good practice

[Awareness raising events for those interested in adopting a child](#)

It is Adoption Week Scotland and Barnardo's Scotland is encouraging people to consider applying to adopt a child. The Barnardo's Scotland Adoption Service are hosting a series of awareness raising events for those interesting in providing a stable, loving home to a child or young person.

Other

[Committee report on parental employment and child poverty](#)

MSPs on the Social Justice and Social Security Committee have called on the Scottish Government to do more to tackle child poverty in a new report. Following an inquiry into child poverty and parental employment, the Committee published its findings. A number of the recommendations focus on childcare, including:

- A workforce strategy to retain staff and address the issue of competition between sectors is needed.



- Calls for more detail on the further expansion of school age childcare, including timescales/funding and the proposed hours of provision, eligibility and income thresholds.
- A detailed assessment of current childcare workforce availability.

[National Director for Action for Children appointed](#)

Action for Children has appointed Fiona Steel as its new National Director for Scotland. She is taking over from Paul Carberry, who became Chief Executive Officer of the charity earlier this year. Ms Steel started her career as a social worker and has held a number of positions at Action from Children since 1997.

[Latest State of Caring report published by Carers Scotland](#)

Carers Scotland has published the results of the charity's annual State of Caring survey, in which over 1,700 Scottish unpaid carers took part in 2023. According to the report, 28% of carers said their mental health is bad or very bad, rising to 37% for carers on Carer's Allowance. Over a third (36%) said that they had thoughts related to self-harm or suicide, while 54% said their physical health had suffered because of their caring role, with 20% suffering a physical injury from caring. Among a number of recommendations, the charity calls for a new dedicated national outcome on care, the development of a Carers Health Plan and the funding of dedicated, tailored mental health support for unpaid carers.

[HIS to deliver new app-based service supporting clinical and care decision making](#)

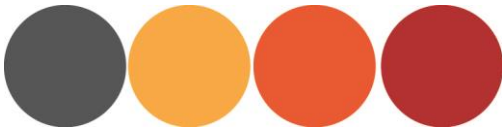
A new app-based service to support the best clinical and care decision making is to be delivered by Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS). The service, the first of its kind in the UK, marks the next stage of the development and roll-out of the Right Decision Service (RDS) as it transfers to HIS from the Digital Health & Care Innovation Centre.

[NQSW Supported Year expanding to more areas, SSSC announces](#)

A further 10 local authority areas have received grant funding to help implement the Newly Qualified Social Worker (NQSW) Supported Year, the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has announced. The grants, which help embed the NQSW Supported Year and share learning and resources across the sector as the work develops, were awarded by a panel with representatives from the SSSC, the Office of the Chief Social Work Adviser, COSLA and the Coalition of Care and Support Providers in Scotland.

[Roadmap offers guidance in creating trauma-informed and responsive change](#)

A roadmap and guidance for creating trauma-informed and responsive change has been published by the National Trauma Transformation Programme. The roadmap is part of a broader series of resources available through the programme, which supports the Scottish Government and COSLA's shared ambition for a trauma-



informed workforce and services across Scotland. The resource has two key sections: an overview of what good looks like and a self-assessment checklist.

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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