

9 – 15 February 2024



bulletin



[Child Protection](#)

[Disability](#)

[Early Learning and  
Childcare](#)

[Justice](#)

[Other Health and Social  
Care](#)



## Child Protection

### [Learning reviews for children in Scotland: data report](#)

The Care Inspectorate has published its overview of data from learning review notifications and reports, submitted by child protection committees. The report includes all learning review reports and notifications submitted since the publication of national guidance in September 2021. Only 10 completed learning review reports were submitted during this time period, meaning the Care Inspectorate has not been able to comment on any significant themes or trends as yet.

## Disability

### [Disability Commissioner \(Scotland\) Bill](#)

A new Member's Bill has been introduced to Parliament. The Disability Commissioner (Scotland) Bill, if passed, would establish a Disability Commissioner with a primary purpose to promote and safeguard the rights of disabled people. The Bill, introduced by Jeremy Balfour MSP, would give the Commissioner the power to carry out investigations. A [Policy Memorandum](#) and accompanying documents have been published alongside the Bill.



## **Early Learning and Childcare**

### [Local authorities submit sustainable rates data to Scottish Government](#)

The Scottish Government has published information provided by local authorities on the sustainable rates they have set for providers in the private, third and childminding sectors to deliver funded early learning and childcare (ELC) in line with Government guidance. As well as requesting data from local authorities, the Scottish Government utilised the survey to begin collecting information on the support package local authorities are offering to funded providers for the delivery of ELC to children with additional support needs. Data on sustainable rates will be published annually.

## **Justice**

### [National Preventive Mechanism Annual Report](#)

The UK National Preventive Mechanism has published its annual report for 2022/23. The report focuses on monitoring places of detention and summarises the main findings and concerns gathered by the NPM's members, including the Care Inspectorate, through their respective inspection and scrutiny work. The report includes evidence on mental health in the criminal justice system, including children's settings, and the use of cross-border or long-distance placement for children.

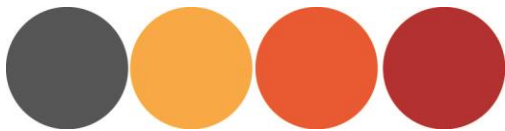
## **Other**

### [Scottish Government ministerial appointments](#)

Following the resignation of Michael Matheson and Elena Whitham last week, the First Minister has confirmed the appointment of Neil Gray as Cabinet Secretary for NHS Recovery, Health and Social Care and Christina McKelvie as Minister for Drugs and Alcohol Policy. The reshuffle also included the appointment of Kaukab Stewart as Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development.

### [Toolkit to support front line response to infant food insecurity](#)

The Scottish Government has produced a guide to responding to and preventing infant food insecurity. The toolkit is a supportive resource to aid local agencies, front line workers and volunteers in supporting families with infants facing financial crisis, including those who are struggling to afford infant formula. The resource will help guide agencies and staff to provide support which is appropriate to the needs of these families, taking a cash first approach through providing cash payments or cash equivalents.



### [Experiences of GIRFEC to be shared](#)

The ALLIANCE is inviting children, young people, parents, carers and professionals to share their experiences of Getting it Right For Every Child (GIRFEC). Their contributions will help shape the ALLIANCE's policy into practice work and the insights will be shared on their website and social media channels, as well as through their GIRFEC training.

### [The ALLIANCE set to run a series of impact visits to member organisations](#)

The Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (the ALLIANCE) will be running a series of impact visits to member organisations in March this year. The impact visits are an extension to the ALLIANCE annual conference and will showcase third sector organisations working to enable and empower local communities to deliver long-term, sustainable change. The details of two impact visits have been announced and those interested in attending can register through the ALLIANCE.

#### **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.