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Child Poverty

[Policies making 'big difference' but costs of raising child still outstripping incomes, report finds](#)

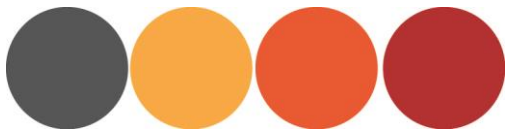
A huge gap remains between the cost of raising a child and actual family incomes, although Scottish Government policies are making a “big difference” to families, according to a report by the Child Poverty Action Group in Scotland. The report is the latest in a series commissioned by Child Poverty Action Group in Scotland from the Centre for Research in Social Policy at Loughborough University. The research also found that working families, while benefitting from lower-cost childcare in Scotland as compared to England, are often still unable to meet the minimum socially acceptable standard of living even if working full-time on the national living wage.

[Iriss event on child poverty in rural settings: 21 March](#)

An event on child poverty in rural settings is to be hosted by the Institute for Research and Innovation in Social Services (Iriss) on 21 March. The free event will look at the role of rural social workers and other community stakeholders.

[Report on relationship between poverty and child and parental wellbeing](#)

A report on the relationship between poverty and child and parental wellbeing has been published by the Scottish Government. According to



the report, there are lower levels of health and wellbeing amongst children, young people and families living in higher areas of deprivation, and as such supporting low income families in their health and wellbeing is crucial in reducing inequalities. The report reiterates the need for actions seeking to strengthen and enhance wellbeing for families living in poverty.

Early Learning and Childcare

[Guidance on sustainable rates for funded ELC to deliver £12 an hour](#)

Guidance on setting sustainable rates for the delivery of funded early learning and childcare (ELC) in 2024-25 has been published by the Scottish Government. The First Minister has [announced](#) £16m of additional funding will be provided to local authorities to enable workers to be paid at least £12 per hour from April 2024.

[Charity sets out vision for 'new social contract' in childcare \(England\)](#)

A new “social licensing model” for the early years and childcare market in England has been proposed by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF). The charity suggests a model whereby “ambitious standards for all providers are a condition of receiving public funding”, with responsibility for monitoring and enforcing conditions lying with Ofsted. The report, which notes the system operating in Scotland through the introduction of the National Standard, also calls for a root-and-branch review of the structure of the sector and a new framework to regulate and manage the system.

Learning Disabilities

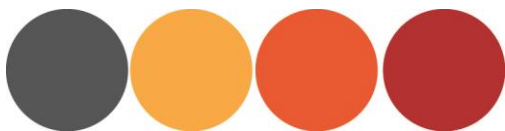
[Scottish Learning Disability Week: 6 – 10 May 2024](#)

Scottish Learning Disability Week will take place from Monday 6 to Friday 10 May. The Scottish Commission for People with Learning Disabilities (SCLD) has highlighted a range of downloadable resources to help people take part, as well as a series of online events taking place during the week and how to register.

Looked After and Accommodated Children

[CELCIS blog shares initial findings from kinship care analysis](#)

Initial findings from an analysis of the experiences of children living in ‘formal’ kinship care have been published in a blog by the Centre for excellence for Children’s Care and Protection (CELCIS). This study, funded by the Economic and Social Research Council, is being conducted by CELCIS in partnership with the Scottish Centre for Administrative Data Research and is using anonymised data gathered by local authorities on all children in kinship care in Scotland between 2008 and 2019. The research has found that an increasing proportion of children are now cared for by kinship carers under voluntary care arrangements, while the average length of time a child or young person spent being cared for by kinship carers was around 16 months (though this varied greatly in different parts of Scotland). The full findings will be published in the summer on the Growing Up In Kinship Care project page.



[Fostering Network recruiting young advisors](#)

The Fostering Network in Scotland is recruiting new members for its Young People's Advisory Board. The Board, which meets fortnightly, is a group of young people with experience of foster care, including children in foster care and birth children of foster carers. If you know a young person aged 16-21 who would like to get involved then they should contact the organisation's Participation Worker at zoe.roy@fostering.net

[Campaign launched to challenge misunderstandings around foster care \(Wales\)](#)

A campaign aiming to correct misunderstandings around the experience of fostering has been launched by the national network of fostering services in Wales. Alistair Cope, Head of Foster Wales, told Children and Young People Now that there is a view that foster carers need to have a defined set of skills but the campaign seeks to show that "everybody has something they can bring to the table".

Other Health and Social Care

[SSSC pausing registration applications ahead of upcoming register changes](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) is pausing registration between 10 April and 3 June 2024 as it prepares for the introduction of significant changes to the register. The SSSC is encouraging staff in new roles to apply for registration in good time to ensure that they are registered within the currently required 6 months. From 3 June, any staff starting will have 3 months to apply for registration. Other changes being introduced include a reduction in the number of register parts from 23 to four, and the introduction of ongoing registration with an annual declaration, removing the need for registration renewal every three or five years.

Also taking effect from 3 June:

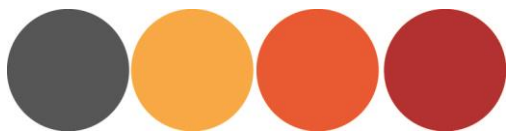
- The introduction of [return to practice requirements](#) for social workers.
- New [continuous professional learning requirements](#) for registrants, with a focus on key skills and knowledge.

[Information sheet on addressing housing insecurity](#)

An information sheet on addressing housing has been published by the Children and Young People's Centre for Justice (CYCJ). The document provides contextual information around the topic of housing security in relation to children and families, and sets out steps that should be considered when supporting those who encounter housing insecurity or at risk of being homeless.

[Young carers urged to apply for grant](#)

The Scottish Government is urging teen carers to apply for the Young Carers Grant. According to the Carers Trust, around 25% of those eligible for the benefit may be missing out on help because they don't realise they are carers.



[Cross-party group sets out 'way forward' on ACEs \(England\)](#)

An cross-party parliamentary group at Westminster has set out a “way forward” to ensure Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) do not “dictate and divert an individual’s destiny”. The report by the by the All-Party Parliamentary Group on a Fit and Healthy Childhood highlights the relationship between ACEs and negative outcomes, making a series of recommendations, including: a national ACEs strategy, enhanced data collection and research, and strengthened early intervention.

[Ofsted launches Big Listen to get views on how it could improve \(England\)](#)

Ofsted has launched a consultation seeking views on how it could be improved. The Big Listen organisation is looking to explore four key areas: reporting, inspection practice, culture and purpose, and impact. Ofsted is looking to hear from those whose work, children, education or care is affected by the work of the organisation to submit their views by Friday 31 May.

[Ofsted responds to committee report on its work \(England\)](#)

Ofsted’s response to a Westminster report on its work with schools has been published. The Education Committee recently made a [series of recommendations](#) on the role of the inspectorate, including a review of single word judgements. Ofsted’s response, which deals with the recommendations in turn, welcomes the “constructive challenge” and acknowledges the need for getting the balance right between holding schools accountable and assessing their strengths and weaknesses.

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 parliamentary and Scottish Government monitoring covering health and social care news from throughout the UK, 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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