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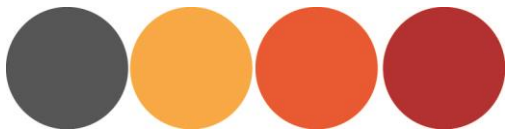
Child Protection

[Strategic inspection of children and young people services in East Lothian](#)

The Care Inspectorate and scrutiny partners have published a joint inspection report on services for children and young people at risk of harm in East Lothian. The report suggests children and young people were safer as a result of staff's effective recognition and response to risks and concerns. Inspectors found examples of meaningful involvement at strategic level, but senior staff were not consistently seeking, collating and using the views of children and young people and their families to inform service improvements.

[Draft codes of practice to protect children and young people online](#)

Ofcom has published draft codes of practice for social media sites which include age-checking measures and changes to algorithms in order to protect children from harmful online content. The regulator said that any company breaching the draft codes of practice would be "named and shamed" and made a commitment to considering stronger action, such as banning social media sites. The draft codes of practice are currently out for consultation.



Disability

[Disparity in data held on disabled children, analysis suggests](#)

New analysis by CELCIS suggests disparity in the statistics collected about disabled children in Scotland. The data from the analysis show that there are many factors affecting how disability is assessed and recorded, including multiple ways in which disability and additional support needs are defined and collected across the different children's statistics that are collated. The review also specifically considered how visible disabled children are in Scotland's children's care and protection data.

Early Years

[Review of Start for Life early years programme](#)

NurseryWorld reports on a review of the Start for Life programme, a family and early years support service in England, by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission. The report was commissioned by the UK Government. It finds that where existing infrastructure was already in place, such as children's centre buildings and existing Sure Start services, the provision of Start for Life services could start more quickly. The report also highlights that some local areas need to rethink how they advertise the services on offer, as some parents believe family hubs are only for "troubled families".

Education

[Education Scotland thematic inspection on curriculum design](#)

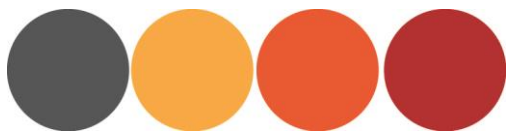
A thematic inspection report on curriculum design has been published by Education Scotland. The report provides an overview of strengths and areas for improvement identified by HM Inspectors during visits to early learning and childcare settings and primary, secondary and special schools during academic session 2022 to 2023.

Other

[New First Minister and Cabinet confirmed](#)

John Swinney is the new First Minister of Scotland following the resignation of Humza Yousaf last week. Kate Forbes was announced as the new Deputy First Minister. The majority of Cabinet Secretary and Ministerial posts remain the same, including:

- Cabinet Secretary for NHS Recovery, Health and Social Care – Neil Gray
- Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills – Jenny Gilruth
- Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs – Angela Constance
- Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice – Shirley-Anne Somerville
- Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government – Shona Robison
- Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise - Natalie Don



- Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport - Maree Todd

[Proposed changes to National Outcomes for Scotland](#)

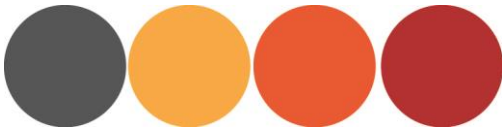
The Scottish Government has published its proposed changes to the National Outcomes for Scotland, which have been laid before the Scottish Parliament for its consideration. The proposed changes follow a process of review and consultation that has been undertaken in accordance with Part 1 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. Proposed changes include a new National Outcome on Care, as well as new National Outcomes on Children and Young People, Education and Learning and Equality and Human Rights.

[Play Scotland seeks blogs from playworkers](#)

Play Scotland has launched a campaign to see Playworker and Playwork added to the Cambridge dictionary, in order to highlight the significance of playwork in promoting children's development, wellbeing and the importance of play. Play Scotland is seeking playworkers to write blogs about a Day in the Life of a Playworker to publish on their website.

[SSSC Codes of Practice launched by Children's Minister](#)

The revised SSSC Codes of Practice for Social Service Workers and Employers were officially launched by Minister for Children, Young People and Keeping the Promise, Natalie Don, this week. Meeting staff and children at the Smilechildcare Under 3s service in Edinburgh, the Minister said the updated Codes set out clearly the standards of practice and behaviour expected of everyone working in social services in Scotland.

**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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