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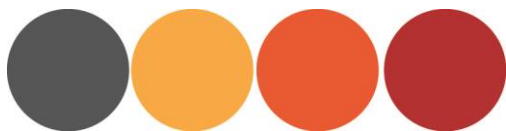
Early Learning and Childcare

[Recruiting childminders](#)

Funding has been announced by the Scottish Government for the Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) to scale up childminder recruitment. The pilot programme will operate in 16 local authority areas, offering a start-up grant for newly-registered childminders once they complete the programme, and support for existing childminders, including a mentoring scheme.

[Perceptions of the childcare system \(England\)](#)

The results of two surveys of adults and their perceptions of the childcare system have been published by the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR). In the context of the upcoming UK General Election, the surveys reportedly show that swing voters are more likely than others to identify childcare as a priority, and to report dissatisfaction with wraparound, nursery and childminder provision where they live. The surveys findings also examine the experiences of the current system, which reportedly vary widely, with parents of children with special educational needs more likely to struggle to find suitable childcare for their children, and parents on low incomes more likely to report low levels of satisfaction and confidence in nursery staff.



Education

[Introduction of Education Bill](#)

The Scottish Government has introduced the Education (Scotland) Bill, which proposes to replace the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) with a new body Qualifications Scotland, and creates a new office for His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education to take over the education inspection functions that currently sit with Education Scotland. While not part of the Bill provisions, Education Scotland's role as the national education agency is also to be refocussed as part of the reform process - including taking a lead on curriculum design, delivery and improvement which will cover the provision of resources to support high quality learning and teaching.

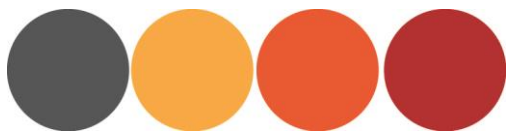
Equalities

[Early evidence and learning from child poverty initiatives](#)

The Scottish Government has published a report on early evidence and learning from a range of place-based, system change initiatives that aim to tackle child poverty. The findings to date reportedly show that for those initiatives at the implementation phase, there are encouraging and positive signs that they are laying the groundwork for longer term system change, which include greater partnership working with a shared sense of purpose; regular and clear communication and strengthened relationships; and recognising and building on the knowledge and experiences of local communities. The key challenges identified include the long-term nature of implementing system change, meaning it takes time to see progress and embed structural change and this does not always align with funding timeframes, and also workforce investment and retention/recruitment of staff, and the socio-economic context in which initiatives are delivering their services (e.g. the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing cost of living crisis).

[Progress report on tackling child poverty](#)

The Scottish Government has published the second annual progress report for 'Best Start, Bright Futures: Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan 2022-2026', which reflects the mid-point of the Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan for 2022-26, and outlines action for the period 2023 to 2024. Alongside the progress report, the government has published a child poverty [measurement framework](#) with the latest data on the drivers of child poverty and a [focus report](#) looking at other marginalised groups at risk of poverty. The government has also used the progress report findings to update its [overview of evidence](#) on the six priority family types identified as being at higher risk of child poverty.



Mental Health

[First delivery plan for the Mental Health and Capacity Reform Programme published](#)

The first delivery plan for the Mental Health and Capacity Reform Programme has been published. It covers the period from October 2023 to April 2025 and outlines the work that is currently underway or will be immediately progressed as the Programme is established. The Programme looks to update and modernise legislation, in line with developing thinking and international standards on human right and will focus on three strategic aims; law reform, improving support, and strengthening accountability. An [easy read version](#) of the delivery plan is also available.

Other Health and Social Care

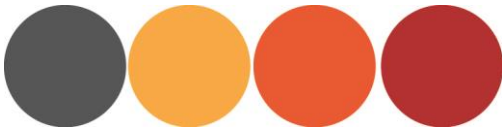
[Child Friendly Complaints Handling Process Guidance published](#)

The Scottish Public Services Ombudsman (SPSO) has published their Child Friendly Complaints Handling Process Guidance, which is intended to sit alongside the Child Friendly Complaints Handling Principles (subject to approval by the Scottish Parliament), to provide detailed best practice guidance on how to deliver the Model Complaints Handling Procedure in a way that meets children's rights under the UNCRC.

[Revised Self-directed Support Framework of Standards launched](#)

The Scottish Government has published an updated Self-directed Support Framework of Standards. The Framework consists of a set of standards to support the implementation of Self-directed Support in Scotland and is aimed at all people and organisations, including children, young people, supported people, families, carers, including young carers and relevant organisations including Local Authorities and Health and Social Care Partnerships, NHS organisations or Integration Joint Board staff. The key revisions made to the Framework include:

- Clarifying the meaning and simplifying the language of each standard including the practice statement and core components
- Reducing the number of core components
- Developing a new explanatory 'how to' section for each core component
- Adding a glossary of terms used



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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