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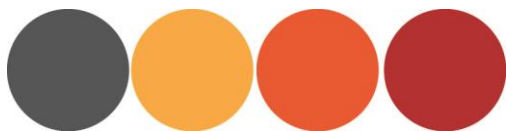
Child Protection

[Rise in reports of online child sexual abuse and exploitation, according to Police](#)

Reports of online child sexual abuse and exploitation (OCSAE) in Scotland increased by 21% in the last year, according to Police Scotland as it launched a new prevention campaign. Between April 2023 and March 2024, 2,055 cyber-enabled sexual crimes against children were recorded, an annual increase of 364. Three offence types accounted for two thirds of this total: Cause or coerce to see or hear sexual images/content; Communicating indecently with a child; Possession or distribution of indecent images of children. Police Scotland has launched its #GethelpOrGetCaught campaign to prevent OCSAE, targeting individuals who may already have offended or be at risk of offending.

[Voice of Online Youth group to advise on keeping children safe online](#)

A new group of young people has been established to advise the NSPCC and wider online safety sector on helping to protect children online. Voice of Online Youth brings together 15 young people, aged 13-16, from across the UK to advise politicians, regulators, parents and professionals about online safety, informed by children's experiences.



Early Learning and Childcare

[Welsh inspectorate to rollout quality meetings and annual quality conference \(Wales\)](#)

The Care Inspectorate Wales is to implement a new approach to promoting improvement in childcare and play settings through the introduction of ‘quality meetings’ and ‘annual quality conferences’. In a phased approach later in the year, quality meetings (previously known as improvement meetings) will be introduced in between inspections, to allow providers to share any improvements they have made since their last inspection. The annual quality conference will share examples of positive practice and collectively address any common issues across the sector.

Education

[Call for views on Bill to establish HM Chief Inspector of Education](#)

A committee in the Scottish Parliament has issued a call for evidence on legislation that would create a new office holder, His Majesty’s Chief Inspector of Education. The Education, Children and Young People Committee has issued both a detailed and shortened call for views on the Education (Scotland) Bill at Stage 1. The Bill would replace the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) with a new body called Qualifications Scotland, and create a new office for His Majesty’s Chief Inspector of Education to take over the education inspection functions that currently sit with Education Scotland. Under the legislation, Education Scotland would remain as lead in curriculum design, delivery and improvement. The deadline for views is 30 August.

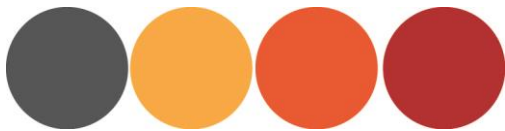
[Frank Cottrell-Boyce named new Children’s Laureate](#)

Screenwriter and novelist Frank Cottrell-Boyce has been announced as the new Waterstone’s Children’s Laureate, Nursery World reports. Mr Cottrell-Boyce has pledged to dedicate his two-year tenure to ensuring every child has access to books and reading from their earliest years.

Health

[NHS Inform highlights ways to avoid tick bites in the summer](#)

NHS Inform is reminding children and their families of ways to avoid tick bites while outdoors during the summer. Lyme disease is caused by being bitten by an infected tick and can be serious if not treated. To avoid tick bites when spending time outdoors, stick to footpaths where possible, cover up bare skin with trousers and long sleeves, and use insect repellent on exposed skin. If you or a child is bitten, remove the tick as soon as possible.



Looked After and Accommodated Children

[SSSC sets out its work in Care Experience and Children's Rights reports](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has published a report setting out its work “to put Scotland’s care experienced children, young people and adults at the heart of what we do”. The report has been published alongside the SSSC’s [Children’s Rights Report 2023](#), which sets out how the SSSC promotes the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in its work. Planned activity from now until 2026 includes:

- leading work to refresh the Common Core of skills, knowledge and understanding and values for the children’s workforce in Scotland as part of the commitment to The Promise’s Change Programme ONE
- carrying out an internal review of readiness for the Incorporation of the UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024
- supporting staff to become trauma informed and exploring how the SSSC can improve its building and policies.

[Appeal Court finds in favour of foster family following ‘erroneous’ accusations](#)

A foster family is to receive £346,000 in compensation from Moray Council following false accusations of “sexual impropriety”, the BBC reports. The Sheriff Appeal Court ruled that the Council’s social work department had made “erroneous and misleading statements” about the family, who had cared for a girl and two boys from 2012. A spokesperson for the Council said Care Inspectorate reports had shown “consistent improvement across the services involved in the care of children and young people in Moray” and expressed determination to “continue that trajectory”.

Mental Health

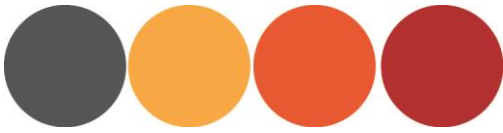
[Mental Welfare Commission publishes annual report](#)

The Mental Welfare Commission has published its annual report for 2023-24. The report sets out the work of the Commission over the year, with 149 wards and units visited over the period, and reflects on the ongoing pressures faced by mental health and learning disability services. The Commission monitors admissions of children and young people to non-specialist wards and will report on this in autumn 2024.

Play

[Review of National Occupational Standards for Playwork announced](#)

The UK Playwork NOS Consortium has been approved to take forward a Review of the National Occupational Standards (NOS) for playwork. The UK Playwork NOS Consortium comprises Play Wales, Play Scotland, PlayBoard Northern Ireland, Play England and the Playwork Foundation. It is expected that the final NOS will be



approved and published to the UK Standards in Autumn 2025. Play Scotland has published an [information sheet](#) on the review.

Other Health and Social Care

[Call for evidence on draft amendments to National Care Service Bill](#)

A committee at the Scottish Parliament has issued a call for evidence on the Scottish Government's proposed amendments to the National Care Service (Scotland) Bill. The Scottish Government had previously shared draft amendments, alongside a package of documents, which are largely focused on the creation of the National Care Service (NCS) Board and its proposed functions. A letter from Social Care Minister Maree Todd states her preference for the inclusion of children's services in the scope of the NCS, which would be achieved through an amendment to the Bill, but she will use additional time over the summer to consider how changes to children's services could be best aligned with timescales relating to The Promise. The deadline for evidence is 30 August.

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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