



Children and Young People



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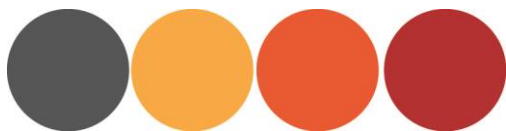
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Covid-19 - General

[Call for business community to share pandemic experiences](#)

The Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry is calling for the business community to share their experiences of the pandemic in Scotland. Business owners, directors, managers, entrepreneurs, the self-employed, freelancers, and others in the business community are invited to help inform the Inquiry's investigations and recommendations by completing the survey by 30 September 2024.



Child Protection

[Reflecting on changes to the Children's Hearings System](#)

Children's Hearings Scotland (CHS) has published a blog by a young person with lived experience of the Children's Hearing System on the increase in age of referral to the Reporter which means that any child under the age of 18 can be newly referred to the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA) to arrange a Hearing. The young person explains they worked with CHS to discuss what matters to older children, what is important for them in a Hearing, and what they needed to make sure Panel Members understand young people of this age. Concerns about the increase on the age of referral include communicating appropriately with 16 and 17 years old, awareness of additional rights for this group, and preconceptions about older children's behaviour and potential.

Early Learning and Childcare

[Interim evaluation report on childcare expansion](#)

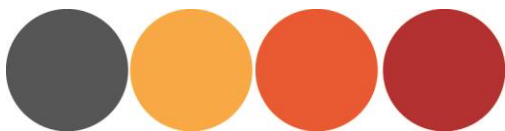
The Scottish Government has published an interim evaluation report on the Early Learning and Childcare expansion to 1140 hours. The report provides an evidence-based picture of how things stood in the initial period after the full statutory implementation of the ELC expansion in August 2021, and how that compares to the preceding years. Areas covered by the report include the ELC workforce, take up of funded ELC, accessibility, flexibility, affordability and quality. A final evaluation report is due to be published in late 2025.

[Terms of reference for the Sustainable Rates Review Implementation Working Group](#)

The Scottish Government has published the Terms of reference for the Sustainable Rates Review Implementation Working Group. Following a joint Review of Sustainable Rates, that examined the process for setting rates for 2022-23 to identify where rate-setting processes could be improved further and how to ensure rates are set in line with the aims of the guidance. The primary role of the Sustainable Rates Review Implementation Working Group will be to inform the approach taken to collecting robust and reliable data on the costs of delivering funded ELC in private, third and childminding sector services. The group may also be asked to provide feedback on draft updated sustainable rates guidance for future years.

[School aged childcare services feasibility study](#)

We are pleased to announce that the Care Inspectorate and the Scottish Government will soon begin work on a joint project to undertake a feasibility study to consider future regulation and inspection of school aged childcare services (SACC). The project will build on the broader work of the SACC Programme and on feedback from the sector, children and families, on issues around regulation and quality. The aim of the project is to understand what changes could be made to the regulation of



SACC to expand the current system, enabling a wider range of services to be considered in the scope of SACC, and creating a more level playing field for service providers. The study will seek to highlight implications of any proposed changes whilst ensuring that SACC provision across Scotland is sustainable, affordable and of high quality, for those families who rely on it. The study will commence in August and will last for six months.

Education

[Briefing on Education Bill](#)

The Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe) has published a research briefing on the Education (Scotland) Bill. The briefing explores some of the recent policy developments in education reform and explores the provisions of the Bill.

Equalities

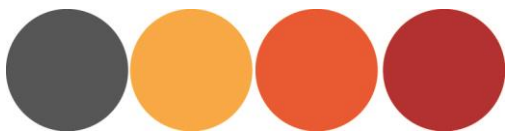
[Guidance on completing children's rights impact assessments](#)

The Scottish Government has published 'Child rights and wellbeing impact assessment external guidance and templates', which includes links to useful resources for gathering evidence, involving children and young people in the development of your policy/measure and ensuring decisions are necessary and proportionate. The Scottish Government will continue to gather feedback from those using the templates and guidance to ensure they are continuously improved.

Justice

[Review events for of Age of Criminal Responsibility Advisory Group](#)

The Scottish Government has published a report of review events held by the Age of Criminal Responsibility Group, one which focused on pre and post-commencement experiences of the Act and another which focused on reflections from practice. The key points from discussions during the events include a strong consensus on the positive impact of improved communication, collaboration, and partnership working, particularly between Police Scotland and Social Work, need for continuous refresh of training and learning, consistency of resources, ensuring language is clear and accessible for young people, all partners and the public, low number of incidents resulting limited learning, resources, implications for victims and their journey, community confidence, Early and Effective Intervention, and the system response to children who have caused harm. The contents of this report will be submitted to the Advisory Group to help inform advice to Scottish Ministers on any future age of criminal responsibility.



Other Health and Social Care

[Quarter one statistical summary report for the Care Inspectorate](#)

The Care Inspectorate Statistical Summary Report for Quarter 1 of 2024/25 has now been released. This presents data on the number of registered care services, new registrations and cancellations, complaints about care services and quality theme grades all by care service type and or service sector. This is updated on a quarterly basis.

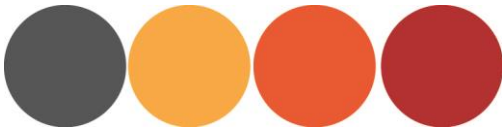
[Feedback on a National Care Service Board published](#)

The Scottish Government has published the findings from engagement and co-design sessions on a National Care Service (NCS) Board. The Government worked with organisations that support people from groups and communities who often face barriers to engaging with the government to run co-design sessions that focused on a NCS Board. The report highlights that people want more information on how the Board will work and more clarity around membership and what is expected of Board members. An [easy read version](#) of the findings is also available.

Other

[New delivery plan launched for refreshed Equally Safe strategy](#)

COSLA and the Scottish Government have published a new delivery plan for Scotland's strategy for preventing and eradicating violence against women and girls (VAWG), Equally Safe. The plan includes 14 deliverables and sets out specific actions to be taken forward under each deliverable. It sets out how the Scottish Government will support women and girls from minority ethnic groups, women and girls with learning disabilities, and take a public health approach to preventing violence against women and girls. It also sets out actions to raise awareness of the scale and impact of VAWG, including a public facing engagement campaign to work with men and boys to challenge misogyny, and challenging the nature of existing media coverage of VAWG. An [easy read version](#) of the plan is also available.



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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