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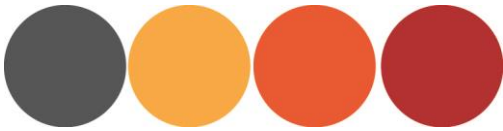
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Child Protection

[Review of effectiveness of partnership working in child protection \(Wales\)](#)

The Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW), His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS), Healthcare Inspectorate Wales (HIW) and Estyn, have published a review of the effectiveness of partnership working and the work of individual agencies in Child Protection across Wales. The review has highlighted many examples of good practice within multi-agency partnerships, local authorities, police forces, healthcare and children's services, and examples of a strong safeguarding culture and a willingness to work effectively across agencies, but also highlights some systemic issues hampering joint working, not least differing IT systems causing difficulties and some delays communicating essential information across multi-agency partners.



Child Protection

[Children's Reporter Administration and Neurodiversity Champions](#)

The Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA) in National Inclusion Week 2024 are highlighting the work of their Neurodiversity Champions. An interview with Jennifer Orren, their Participation Lead who chairs the Neurodiversity Champions Network discusses the work and benefits of the Network.

Early Learning and Childcare

[Early learning and childcare statistics 2023](#)

The Care Inspectorate has published 'Early Learning and Childcare Statistics 2023', which shows the availability and quality of registered daycare of children and childminding services for children and families across Scotland. Key findings include that there were 3,444 daycare of children services as of 31 December 2023, 70 fewer compared to 2022, however the average size of daycare of children services continued to increase, rising from 51.2 places in 2022 to 51.9 in 2023. The quality of services continues to be high, with 92.6% of childminding and 88.3% of daycare of children services holding evaluations of good or better for all assessed themes or key questions.

[Childminding survey](#)

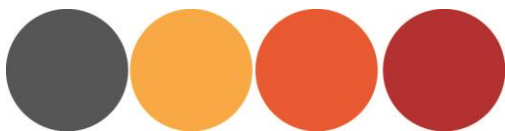
The Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) are inviting their members to complete their survey on areas such as strengthening their CPL provision further developing their membership offering and practice support, understanding where your business is now in terms of sustainability, and capturing a further snapshot from those delivering funded ELC to understand the impact of new developments – including the inclusion of the deferral year and budget cuts around the country. The survey closes on 27 October 2024.

[Findings from a study of ELC focusing on two year olds](#)

The Scottish Government has published the 'Scottish Study of Early Learning and Childcare: Phase 4 Report', focusing on two-year-olds who are accessing funded Early Learning and Childcare (ELC). The report examines the use of ELC; child health and development; parent work, education and training; parental and family wellbeing; views of setting managers; and characteristics of ELC.

[Programme for childminder recruitment and retention](#)

The Scottish Government's Minister for Children, Young People and Keeping the Promise has written to the Education, Children and Young People Committee to highlight the June 2024 launch of the Programme for Scotland's Childminding Future and the progress being made on childminder recruitment and retention. The programme is expected to run for three years, will support the recruitment of new professional childminders across Scotland, and also includes a range of measures to



address the retention of the childminding workforce, delivering more practical support to ensure existing professionals are supported with their workloads and professional development.

Equalities

[Care Inspectorate children's rights, care experience and corporate parenting plan](#)

We have published our 'Children's rights, care experience and corporate parenting plan 2024- 2027'. This high-level plan details our commitments and priority actions to meet our obligations, as corporate parents, to care experienced people. Over the next three years we will:

- promote, uphold, and fulfil children's rights for all connected by our work, particularly those where we have corporate parenting responsibilities
- strengthen our participation and equalities practice to support care experienced individuals
- provide flexible and supportive development, volunteering, and employment opportunities for care experienced individuals

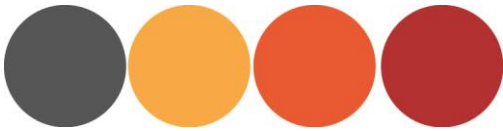
[Annual report for children's rights organisation](#)

The Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights (Together) has published its annual report for 2023-24 highlighting developments in the promotion and protection of children's rights. These developments include supporting the incorporation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child into Scots law, participation of children and young people in the UN Committee's review of the UK in 2023, and Together chairing the Rights of the Child (UK) Coalition.

Looked After and Accommodated Children

[Evaluation published on trial to support connections for care experienced children](#)

The Centre for Excellence for Children's Care and Protection (Celcis) has published an evaluation of a trial of the Family Right's Group's Lifelong Links approach, which identifies and contacts relatives and other adults to support care experienced children and young people to create and develop connections during their time in care and their transition into adulthood. The evaluation reportedly finds that Lifelong Links can empower children and young people, and support their agency and sense of identity, and can challenge the existing culture and practices within social work departments, and that having a Lifelong Links co-ordinator who is independent from others supporting a child, young person and their family means that this work can be less inhibited by any negative experiences or perceptions of previous social work interventions that children or young people may have.



Other Health and Social Care

[Posters on complaining confidentially with the Care Inspectorate](#)

We have designed new posters for services to display in their settings beside their registration certificate with information on how people can make complaints confidentially. We want to encourage people that they can complain to us confidentially and that their personal details are safe. We have two posters available to download, one for early learning and childcare/children and young people's services and another for adult and older people's services.

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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