



[Early Learning and
Childcare](#)

[Equalities](#)

[Looked After and
Accommodated Children](#)

[Mental Health](#)

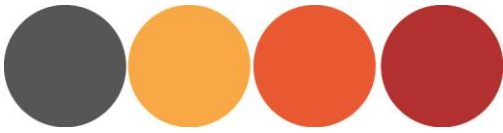
[Other](#)

Early Learning and Childcare

[Early learning and childcare statistics](#)

The Care Inspectorate has published Early Learning and Childcare Statistics 2023. The report shows the availability and quality of registered daycare of children and childminding services for children and families. Main findings include:

- 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 number of childminding services registered continued to decrease, falling by 8.6% in 2023 to 3,225 compared to 3,530 in 2022.
- Capacity in early learning and childcare (including childminding services) decreased by 1.4%, from 201,960 in 2022 to 199,050 registered places.
- School-aged childcare services had an increase of 1,890 children registered (4.4% increase) compared to 2022.



Equalities

[Care Inspectorate call for views on Equality Outcomes for 2025-29](#)

We have launched a consultation on our Equality Outcomes for 2025-2029, these outcomes will guide our focus on equality, diversity, and inclusion over the next four years. You can provide feedback through the online survey which will close on 11 November 2024 or by attending an online Conversation Cafe. An [information video](#) on the Equality Outcomes and consultation is also available to view online.

Looked After and Accommodated Children

[Evaluation of project supporting care experienced children and young people](#)

The Centre for Excellence for Children's Care and Protection (CELCIS) has published an evaluation report on a five-year trial of the Family Rights Group's Lifelong Links approach by three local authorities. The project supports children and young people who are in care by identifying and contacting relatives and other adults to create or develop relationships. The evaluation found Lifelong Links was successful in empowering children and young people, and also in challenging existing culture and practices within social work departments.

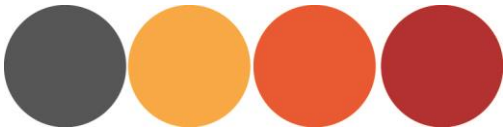
[Use of Section 25 arrangements focus of CELCIS study](#)

A study by CELCIS has found that non-compulsory arrangements for caring for children and young people in need of care and protection are being used more commonly than previously thought. The research looked into the use of arrangements made under Section 25 of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995, which increased by 50% between 2013 and 2023, and reveals how Section 25 arrangements are used, understood, and experienced.

Mental Health

[Census figures show an increase in people reporting having a mental health condition](#)

Latest census figures published by the National Records of Scotland (NRS) show the number of people who reported having a mental health condition has more than doubled between 2011 and 2022. In 2022, 617,100 people reported that they had a mental health condition, with a large increase in the number of younger people reporting mental health conditions contributing to the increase. The NRS figures also show an increase in the number of people providing unpaid care.



Other

[Council leaders withdraw support for National Care Service legislation](#)

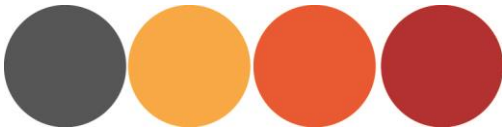
COSLA has withdrawn support for the National Care Service (Scotland) Bill, which is currently being considered by the Scottish Parliament. The Scottish Government Bill aims to ensure greater transparency in the delivery of community health and social care, improve standards, strengthen the role of the workforce and provide better support for unpaid carers. COSLA said it continues to support key areas of reform, including care home visitation rights and improving the experience of the workforce, but expressed concern that the Bill and proposed amendments do not reflect a model which local government can support.

[Consultation on SSSC registration fees](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) is consulting on a proposed increase to their registration fees. The proposal is for a small increase each year over a period of five years with different rates based on the different roles registrants do. The consultation closes on 23 December 2024.

[Accounts Commission report highlights urgent need for transformation in councils](#)

The Accounts Commission has published a report on the role transformation and collaboration can play in helping councils to achieve financial sustainability. The report recognises the challenges currently faced by councils, including increased demands and financial pressures, and highlights an urgent need for reform in local government. The report suggests that councils and key partners must increase the pace and scale of major changes in order to protect vital public services. The report also highlights work being undertaken as part of the sector-led Transformation Programme to help councils reform how they deliver services. The programme is being delivered by the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (Solace) and the Improvement Service and focuses on developing proposals for a future operating model for councils and options for the delivery of sustainable council 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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