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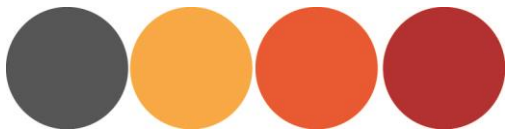
## Disabilities

### [Dr Simon Webster appointed as new SCLD Chief Executive](#)

The Scottish Commission for People with Learning Disabilities (SCLD) has appointed Dr Simon Webster as its new Chief Executive. Dr Webster led work on the Review of Learning Disability and Autism in the Mental Health Act (the Rome Review) and was formerly Director of Policy Programmes with the Coalition of Care and Support Providers in Scotland and Research Consultant on Lord Scott's Review of Mental Health Law in Scotland.

### [Consultation on disabled children's social care law \(England\)](#)

A consultation on disabled children's social care law in England has been launched by the Law Commission. The consultation, running until 20 January 2025, asks a number of questions, including: whether there should be a new legal framework for disabled children's social care; whether there should be national eligibility criteria; how disability should be defined; what remedies should be available for children and families when things go wrong. The announcement coincides with the publication of [research](#) published by the Coram Institute for Children on support for disabled children in care and care leavers in England.



## Early Learning and Childcare

### [Updated Setting the Table guidance published](#)

Updated nutritional standards and practical guidance for early learning and childcare (ELC) providers has been published by the Scottish Government. Setting the Table was developed by a Scottish Government led multi-partner working group consisting of national statutory bodies, clinical and nutrition experts, and sector representatives. Regulated ELC services that are providing food and/or drinks to children 0-5 years will be responsible for the implementation of this guidance, with an expectation that they do so by 1 August 2025 in order to provide time for settings to familiarise themselves with its contents and make changes where necessary. A webinar is planned on 11 November 2024 to support effective implementation.

### [Water safety campaign launched by charity](#)

A campaign to raise awareness about the importance of water safety has been launched by the Royal Life Saving Society UK. Splash Safely at your Pad focuses on bathtime and seeks to dispel “harmful” misconceptions around the factors leading to child drownings.

### [Ofsted publishes final report in early years education series \(England\)](#)

The final report in a series of research reviews on early years education has been published by Ofsted. The report focuses on what progress looks like for pre-school aged children in four specific areas of learning: literacy, mathematics, understanding the world, and expressive arts and design. The report draws together findings from the research series and sets out a number of key indicators of effective early years education for practitioners to put into practice.

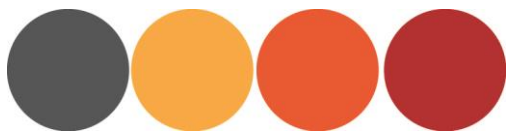
## Equalities

### [Latest KidsRight Index published](#)

The KidsRight Index, which annually ranks how well countries uphold children's rights, has been published for 2024. According to this year's report, there has been a 21% rise of serious children's rights violations in armed conflicts around the world, while progress on sustainable development goals relevant to children is lagging. The United Kingdom is ranked at 137 out of a total of 194 countries included in the Index, up 43 places from 2023.

### [Pilot project offers opportunities to explore children's rights](#)

A pilot project providing an opportunity for babies, young children and their families to explore children's rights has been launched by Together. The Rights Detectives project, run in partnership with Craigmillar Literacy Trust, Home Start UK, Play Scotland, and Starcatchers, features sensory play, music, movement, photography, messy play and engaging discussions to encourage family participation and a child-friendly feedback process.



## Justice

### [Briefing on children and the criminal justice system in Scotland](#)

A briefing on how the criminal justice system treats and interacts with children in conflict with the law has been published by the Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe). The briefing, one of six covering various aspects of the Scottish criminal justice system, looks at the background and history of how children who offend have been dealt with in Scotland and outlines the law and practice in terms of the age of criminal responsibility. It also looks at the children's hearings system, the criminal courts, and both secure accommodation and young offenders institutions.

### **Looked After and Accommodated Children**

#### [Consultation seeks views on developing a universal definition of 'care experience'](#)

A consultation exploring the need for a universal and inclusive definition of 'care experience' and its potential impacts has been launched by the Scottish Government. The consultation seeks views on the potential advantages and disadvantages of developing a definition of care experience, as well as the potential scope of a definition. A second section of the consultation looks at wider language relating to care. The consultation closes on 31 December.

#### [Vision for 'reimagined secure care' in Scotland following co-design project](#)

A theoretical blueprint for a "reimagined secure care" has been published by the Children and Young People's Centre for Justice (CYCJ). Commissioned by the Scottish Government and developed by the CYCJ, the Reimagining Secure Care report sets out a vision for the future of secure care in Scotland, drawing on extensive collaboration with stakeholders, practitioners, and young people with lived experience.. The report, which highlights the need for significant system changes and a "children-first, rights-based approach", has been published alongside a literature review and participation report.

#### [New research sets out picture of kinship care in Scotland](#)

New research has brought together data to better understand the picture of kinship care in Scotland. Growing Up in Kinship Care, published by the Centre for Excellence for Children's Care and Protection (CELCIS) and the Scottish Centre for Administrative Data Research, looked at the data of over 19,000 children and young people who had lived in kinship care over a ten year period. Among the findings, the proportion of children and young people needing care and protection who were being cared for by family and friends increased from around 1 in 6 (16%) of children in care in 2008, to almost 1 in 3 (29%) in 2019.

#### [Statement on St Mary's Kenmure, East Dunbartonshire](#)

The Care Inspectorate has issued an improvement notice to St Mary's Kenmure in East Dunbartonshire. The notice has been issued after an inspection identified



serious and significant concerns about the quality of care experienced by young people at the service. The notice sets out the significant improvements that must be made within a specified timeframe, with an added condition to the service's registration preventing any new admissions from taking place because there is a serious risk to the life, health or wellbeing of people currently using the service if more young people were admitted to the service at this time.

#### [Promise Scotland online event to discuss Plan 24-30](#)

The Promise Scotland is to run an online event on 23 October to give stakeholders a chance to discuss Plan 24-30. Fiona Duncan, Independent Strategic Advisor - The Promise, will be speaking at the free event, and there will also be presentations from organisations across Scotland on how they are implementing Plan 24-30.

#### [Study highlights extent of private outsourcing of care \(England\)](#)

Oxford University has published new research highlighting the extent and impact of for-profit social care provision in England. The study, which looks at both the adult social care and children's sectors, suggests 80% of children's residential care homes are now run by for-profit companies. The report also highlights that public and third-sector providers consistently receive higher regulatory inspection ratings than the private sector, while for-profit operators experience more frequent involuntary closures and cancellations by the Care Quality Commission and Ofsted.

### **Mental Health**

#### [World Mental Health Day 2024](#)

World Mental Health Day takes place on 10 October. The theme set by the World Federation of Mental Health this year is workplace mental health, highlighting the importance of addressing mental health and wellbeing in the workplace, for the benefit of people, organisations, and communities.

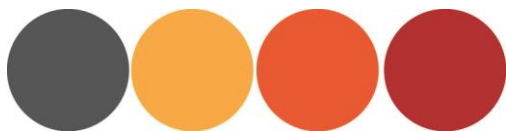
#### [National review of mental health and suicide prevention training provision](#)

Public Health Scotland (PHS) has completed a review of current provision of mental health and suicide prevention learning. In a final report, PHS recommends a more strategic approach to the oversight of learning programmes and provision of a broad range of evidence-informed programmes which support the priorities in national strategies. The review also found understanding of and access to learning programmes must be improved.

### **Other Health and Social Care**

#### [Care Inspectorate publishes Whistleblowing disclosures report 2023-24](#)

The Care Inspectorate has published its annual report on whistleblowing complaints. In 2023/24, we received no internal whistleblowing complaints about the Care Inspectorate from staff or ex-staff. In 2023/24, we received 5,646 complaints



about regulated services, of which 24% (1,337) were raised by employees of care services. Of this group, 1,037 were identified as current employees (18%) and 300 were identified as ex-employees (5%). Overall, this is a reduction of 13% on the rate of complaints raised by care service staff from the previous year. The percentage of all complaints by complainant type received anonymously during 2023/24 has decreased from the year before, with 61% of complaints received in 2023/24 compared to 67% in 2022/23.

### [Drug-related death database 2019-20](#)

Public Health Scotland has released analysis of drug-related deaths registered in 2019 and 2020. The database shows the average age of people whose death was registered as drug-related was 43 and over half of the people who died lived in the 20% most deprived areas in Scotland. The statistics also show 602 children were reported to have lost a parent or parental figure as a result of a drug-related death in 2019 and 2020.

### [New Audit Scotland chair appointed](#)

Colin Crosby OBE has been appointed as the new chair of the Audit Scotland Board. Mr Crosby, who joined the Board as an independent non-executive director in 2020, has significant leadership experience across the public, private and third sectors and has an OBE for services to social housing.

#### **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.

It should also be noted that the Care Inspectorate has no liability in respect of the content of external websites which may be signposted on this site.