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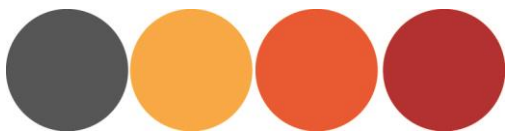
Child Protection

[Phase 8 hearings continue in Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry](#)

The Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry has confirmed that public hearings in relation to its Phase 8 investigations will continue until early in 2025. The focus of this case study is residential accommodation provided or used by the state between 1930 and 2014 to accommodate (a) young offenders under the age of 18 (and children and young persons under 18 awaiting trial) and (b) children and young persons under 18 in need of care and protection.

[SCRA explores views on use of AI in society and hearings system](#)

The Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA) is to host workshops as part of a project exploring what professionals working within the children's hearings system think about artificial intelligence (AI). The first session will explore views about the use of AI technology, how it affects day-to-day life, and the potential benefits and risks for society. The second session will focus on how AI could be used within the children's hearings system, including the potential benefits and risks.



Disabilities

[Clearer plan needed to tackle disability employment gap, according to committee](#)

A report on the disability employment gap has been published by a committee in the Scottish Parliament. The Economy and Fair Work Committee is calling on the Scottish Government to deliver a clear and measurable action plan, suggesting that the current strategy does not contain enough detail on how the target to half the disability employment gap by 2038 will be met. According to the report, disabled and neurodiverse young people often do not receive the correct support in transitioning to adulthood.

Early Learning and Childcare

[Quality framework for childcare agencies introducing and supplying childcare staff](#)

The Care Inspectorate has published its quality framework for childcare agencies introducing and supplying childcare staff. The framework, which will be used by inspectors from 1 April 2025, sets out what high quality looks like in childcare agencies, with a primary purpose to support services to evaluate their own performance. The framework is underpinned by the Health and Social Care Standards, the UNCRC, the Promise and links to the quality framework for daycare of children, childminding and school-aged childcare.

[Analysis of milk and healthy snack schemes published](#)

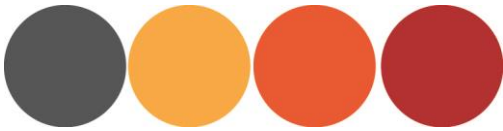
An analysis of milk and healthy snack schemes has been published by the Scottish Government. The report looks at data collected on the operation of the Scottish Milk and Healthy Snack Scheme and local authority school milk schemes to support the new Scottish School Milk Subsidy Scheme. According to the report, the schemes play “vital roles in promoting child health and nutrition across Scotland”, though improved mechanisms for data collection and reporting are required as the schemes continue to develop over time.

[Education impact hearings to begin on 5 November](#)

The Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry’s impact hearings in relation to education will begin on 5 November as part of the Inquiry’s latest module. Witnesses include Play Scotland, Early Years Scotland and the Scottish Childminding Association.

[Care Inspectorate Wales updates childcare and play data tool](#)

An updated tool providing a range of data on registered childcare providers across Wales has been launched by Care Inspectorate Wales. The data presented has been collected from 2,704 providers through the Self-Assessment of Service Statement (SASS) process.



Other Health and Social Care

[New process for collecting feedback from care service providers](#)

From week commencing 21 October 2024, we are changing the process of how we collect feedback from care service providers following inspections. Previously, feedback from providers was gathered through Microsoft Forms. We are now introducing a more streamlined process that links feedback to individual inspections. After we issue each final inspection report, providers will receive an email giving them access to our new Inspection Satisfaction Questionnaire (ISQ) platform. They will be given: a link to the ISQ platform, an inspection report document ID and 4-digit PIN to be entered to complete the survey. The current MS Forms will remain active until 18 November 2024, allowing us to continue capturing feedback from services on inspections completed before the new platform is launched.

[People's panel established to scrutinise drug harm](#)

The Scottish Parliament has announced plans for a “people’s panel” to scrutinise the issue of drug deaths and drug related harms in Scotland. The panel will be made up of 25 people from across the country and will work together to discuss what needs to be done to tackle these issues. A final report by the panel will help inform the cross-Committee scrutiny of matters related to reducing drug deaths and tackling problem drug use by the Criminal Justice Committee, the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee, and the Social Justice and Social Security Committee.

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, current research and policy development. We use a variety of sources for the bulletin, including [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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