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Child Protection

[New research launched to gather views on information shared to those harmed by a child](#)

The Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA) and Victim Support Scotland are conducting research to support the implementation of the Children (Care and Justice) (Scotland) Act 2024 and are now gathering views on the type of information and supports that should be available to those who are harmed by children and how the rights of children who harm and those that they harm can be balanced. The research study consists of two parts with the call for participants seeking to gather views from victims who have been harmed by a child who was referred to the Children's Reporter and young people who have committed an offence.

[SCRA publishes annual update on 40 Calls to Action](#)

SCRA has published its fourth annual update on the work it has taken forward to meet the 40 Calls to Action. The calls to action were published in 2020 and called on organisation in the Hearings System to make improvements. The update provides a breakdown of the SCRA'S work relating to hearing room improvements and improving information material.



Early Learning and Childcare

[Quality Improvement Framework for early learning and childcare sectors](#)

The Care Inspectorate and Education Scotland have issued an update on the development of the new quality improvement framework for the early learning and childcare sectors. The new framework is due to be launched on 14 January 2025 and will be used by the Care Inspectorate and Education Scotland when carrying out inspections from September 2025. A series of engagement sessions will be launched throughout November 2024 which will provide an opportunity to gain a better understanding of the framework.

[UK Government response to early years safeguarding reforms published \(England\)](#)

The Department of Education has published the main findings from its consultation on proposals to strengthen Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) safeguarding requirements in England. The Government has stated that it will proceed with implementing all of the safeguarding proposals that were consulted on and that new whistleblowing requirements and expectations to provide references will also be introduced.

Looked After and Accommodated Children

[Care experienced guaranteed interview scheme launched by SSSC](#)

SSSC (Scottish Social Services Council) has launched its Care Experienced Guaranteed Interview Scheme which will ensure that care experienced applicants who meet the essential job criteria will automatically get an interview. The scheme will also allow for reasonable adjustments to be made to the assessment and interview process.

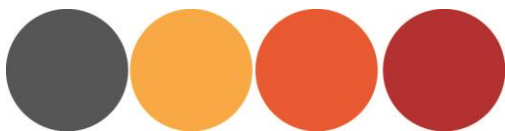
[Who Cares? Scotland highlights financial challenges faced by care experienced people](#)

Who Cares? Scotland has published its latest issue paper on the most commonly raised issues faced by care experienced people aged 16 and over. This issue highlights the financial pressures faced by some care experienced people and sets out a number of recommendations for duty bearers to take forward before the conclusion of the Promise.

Other Health and Social Care

[Details of a UK wide strategy to tackle child poverty published](#)

The Cabinet Office has outlined its approach to developing a long-term strategy to tackle child poverty in the UK. The report highlights that child poverty has increased since 2010 and notes that over four million children are now living in poverty in the UK and 800,000 children are using foodbanks to eat. It sets out how the UK government will work with devolved governments to develop the strategy and



outlines engagement activities planned for the coming months. The report sets out the four key areas the strategy will focus on, including increasing incomes, reducing essential costs, increasing financial resilience, and better local support focussed on children's early years. The strategy is due to be published in 2025 and will cover a 10 year period.

[CPAG report highlights the impact of the two-child benefit cap on child poverty](#)

The Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG) has published a report exploring child poverty across the four nations and what lessons can be learned from previous child poverty strategies. The CPAG analysis notes that child poverty is likely to rise in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, unless there is urgent policy change, and suggests that the two-child benefit cap is a key driver in this increase. The Scottish child payment is expected to reduce child poverty in Scotland, however the report notes that more will be needed to meet the target of less than 10% of children in poverty by 2030. CPAG welcomes commitments by the UK Government to develop a UK-wide cross-government child poverty strategy and calls for the strategy to include policies that invest in the social security system, as the main policy lever for preventing and reducing child poverty.

[First Minister backs joint campaign for an alcohol free childhood](#)

Children in Scotland has highlighted the First Minister's support for a joint campaign aimed at ensuring children and young people in Scotland grow up free from the harmful effects of alcohol marketing. The Alcohol- Free Childhood campaign has been launched in collaboration between Alcohol Focus Scotland, BMA Scotland, Children in Scotland, Scottish Families Affected by Alcohol and Drugs, and Scottish Health Action on Alcohol Problems (SHAAP).

[Care Inspectorate quarterly statistical summary report](#)

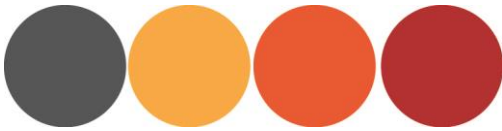
Our Statistical Summary Report for the second quarter of 2024/25 has been released. This presents data on the number of registered care services, new registrations and cancellations, complaints about care services and quality theme grades all by care service type and or service sector.

[Children's charity declares childhood emergency in Scotland](#)

Children First has declared a "childhood emergency" in Scotland following new research findings which suggest that most adults believe growing up in the country is worse than ever before. The charity also highlighted feedback from its recent workshop which revealed young people's concerns around cyberbullying and social media.

[First annual vaccination report published](#)

Public Health Scotland has published the first Annual Vaccination and Immunisation Report for Scotland, providing an overview of Scotland's Vaccination and Immunisation programme for 2023 and the role it is playing to protect the population



of Scotland from a range of infectious diseases. Areas for improvement identified by the report includes a deprivation gap, with lower overall uptake in areas of higher deprivation, and a need to increase vaccination rates among at-risk groups.

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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