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Adoption and Fostering

[Consultation on future of foster care](#)

The Scottish Government has launched a consultation on plans for the future of foster care. Proposals include more peer support opportunities, using foster carers to facilitate family time with parents and siblings of children in foster care, and discussion of the role of Independent Fostering Agencies. A national push to recruit more foster carers will also launch in 2025, with the aim of ensuring there are enough foster carers to support children in care.



[Annual report for Children's Reporter](#)

The Scottish Children's Reporter Administration has published their annual report for 2023/24, including their annual accounts. The report also include their highlights and achievements in 2023/24, key stories and a child-friendly version.

Covid-19

[Update by Scottish Covid Inquiry Chief Executive](#)

An update for October has been published by Ian Duddy, Chief Executive of the Scottish COVID-19 Inquiry, discussing Let's Be Heard engagement, preliminary hearings, summaries of evidence, issues the Inquiry is investigating, and a discussion of the purpose of public inquiries.

Education

[Members' Bill on residential outdoor education](#)

The Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe) has published a briefing on the Schools (Residential Outdoor Education)(Scotland) Bill, a Member's Bill by Liz Smith MSP which aims to improve the opportunities for pupils to participate in residential outdoor education. The Bill's provisions include placing a duty on education authorities and managers of grant-aided schools to secure the provision of at least one period of residential outdoor education for each pupil, placing a duty on Scottish Ministers to prepare and publish guidance on the duty to secure the provision of residential outdoor education, and providing that the Scottish Government provide funding to local authorities and the managers of grant-aided schools to carry out the duty to secure the provision of residential outdoor education.

Health

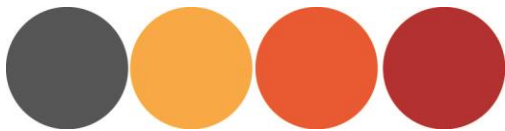
[Report of working group reviewing nutrient, food and drink standards for children](#)

The Scottish Government has published a report by the Technical Working Group on the review of nutrient, food and drink standards for children aged one up to five years. The report sets out the work of the Technical Working Group, key changes to the nutrient, food and drink standards and the rationale for the changes, and a recommendation for the standards to be revised within five years unless there is a significant change to the evidence base before then.

Justice

[Study on implementing trauma-informed practice in custody settings for children](#)

The Children and Young People's Centre for Justice (CYCJ) has published a study authored by Dr Nina Vaswani, Kristina Moodie, and Donna McEwan on 'Children's Experiences of Police Custody and the Implications for Trauma-Informed Policing.' Drawing on interviews with 11 children, the journal article on the study maps their



experiences of police custody to trauma-informed practice principles, and reportedly finds a gap between policy commitments and the realities children face, and that practices encountered in custody frequently fall short of trauma-informed principles such as safety, choice, and empowerment.

Looked After and Accommodated Children

[Resources to support services working to Keep The Promise](#)

The Promise Scotland has launched resources and tools designed to support services working to Keep the Promise. There are 17 new tools, which are designed specifically to support co-design— helping those in the public and third sectors who run services to work collaboratively with the people who use them.

[Guidance for the rest of the UK placing children into Scottish residential care](#)

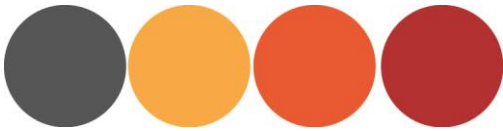
The Scottish Government has published guidance primarily for local authority staff in England / Wales and any Health and Social Care Trust staff in Northern Ireland involved in the placing of children into Scottish residential care under a Deprivation of Liberty (DOL) order. The 'Deprivation of Liberty Orders) (Scotland) Regulations 2022 - practice guidance, notice and undertaking template' can also support Scottish authorities and services to understand what the placing authorities from England / Wales / Northern Ireland are required to do when placing a child with a DOL order into Scottish residential care. It supports placing local authorities to understand and complete the Placement Notice and Undertaking and provide additional essential information to support a child's care, and in addition, it sets out issues that placing authorities should consider at different stages of the placement process.

[Handbook for professionals in higher education to support care experienced students \(England\)](#)

The Children's Commissioner for England has published a handbook to help professionals working in higher education institutions recognise the challenges faced by care experienced students and encourage them to embed policies which would help to improve their lives, and provide them with ideas to improve their offer to care experienced students over time. The handbook covers support from pre-admissions through to finishing studies including financial assistance, social integration, career development, and overall well-being.

[Guidance for providers of care homes for children \(Wales\)](#)

The Care Inspectorate Wales and Welsh Government have published national guidance for providers who are considering registering a care home for children. Informed by a stakeholder group including the Children's Commissioning Consortium Cymru and their Young Commissioners, the guidance sets out what makes a good home for children and young people.



Other Health and Social Care

[Information on minimum pay for children's social workers](#)

The Scottish Government has published information on the minimum rate of pay for children's social care workers and what people should do if they are not receiving that. Coming into effect in April 2024, the current minimum rate of pay for children's social care workers delivering direct care in Scotland is £12 per hour. The published information details who is eligible, what to do if you are not getting paid the minimum amount, and the role of the Scottish Government.

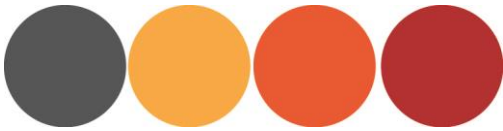
Other

[UK Government delivers Autumn Budget](#)

The UK Government's Chancellor Rachel Reeves has delivered the Autumn Budget for 2024, with key announcements including additional funding for the NHS, an increase in the minimum wage and an increase in employer's contribution to National Insurance. As part of the Budget, the UK Government announced the establishment of the time-limited Office for Value of Money (OVfM), which will provide targeted interventions through the multi-year spending review and develop recommendations for system reform.

[Iriss CEO steps down](#)

Chief Executive of Iriss, Dee Fraser, is leaving the organisation after four years. Stuart Muirhead, currently Iriss' Head of Programmes, will step up to act as Interim CEO.

**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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