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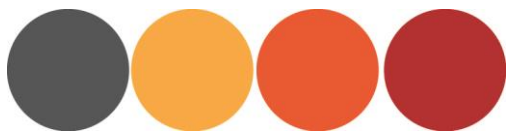
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Adoption and Fostering

[Vision and priorities for adoption](#)

The Scottish Government has published a statement setting out their vision for adoption and strategic priorities to achieve that vision for adoption to be open and response, continuing to evolve and change to meet the unique needs of our children and young people, as well as adult adoptees, and to be responsive to wider changes in society and practice. The five strategic priorities include recognising adoption as the best permanence option for some children, best practice to support timely adoption and good transitions as well as family time and life journey work, consistent and comprehensive post-adoption support, and lifelong support.



Adoption and Fostering

[Experiences of adoption services](#)

The Centre for Excellence for Children's Care and Protection (Celcis) has published 'Towards modernising adoption in Scotland: A focused mapping review', which reviews selected literature from the last five years and recent changes and approaches that have developed in services and practice in adoption services in Scotland, the UK, and internationally, to understand how recent developments can contribute to improving adoption policy and practice in Scotland and better meet the needs of all involved. This review of current adoption legislation, policy and practice considers what works well, what challenges and issues there are, and what factors should be considered in thinking about the future of adoption, and amongst other key learning, recommends re-visioning the structure, organisation and delivery of adoption services in Scotland to help address delay in the adoption process, recruit the right adoptive parents for children, provide greater consistency of approach, and improve the support provided to everyone affected by adoption.

Covid-19

[Inquiry's listening project will close its surveys on 29 November 2024](#)

The Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry has announced the deadline for sharing experiences of the pandemic. The Let's Be Heard project will finish gathering people's experiences on Friday 29 November 2024. The project will now focus on analysing the information gathered and build on initial findings which were published last year.

Education

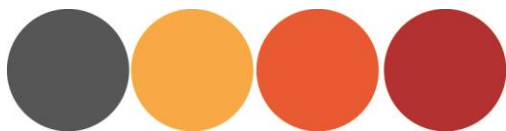
[Initial teacher education inspection cycle postponed \(England\)](#)

Ofsted has announced the postponement of the next cycle of initial teacher education (ITE) until the 2025/26 academic year. The Secretary of State has requested the postponement ahead of more substantive changes to the ITE inspection framework, including the introduction of report cards, due in September 2025. A consultation on changes to inspections will take place in January next year.

Looked After and Accommodated Children

[Evaluation of advocacy services for children attending Children's Hearings](#)

A report evaluating a scheme providing advocacy services for children and young people attending Children's Hearing has been published by the Scottish Government. 'Children's Hearings Advocacy Scheme Scotland-wide provision evaluation' explores the impact of and learning from the Children's Hearings Advocacy Scheme. What reportedly works well includes the quality of the service provided, independent role of the advocacy worker, and joint working between providers. Reported areas of improvement include support for uptake and



involvement of advocacy workers in Children's Hearing, managing demand and supply, adequate time to with children and young people ahead of their Hearing, and further developing monitoring requirements to collate information about the impact of the scheme.

[Promise newsletter](#)

The Promise Scotland has circulated its November newsletter, providing updates on and opportunities to get involved in the work. The newsletter highlights design tools available on the Promise Scotland website, work on understanding barriers in data and information sharing relating to care experienced children, and upcoming events.

[Continuation of inquiry into children's social care \(England\)](#)

The UK Parliament's Education Committee has confirmed they have re-opened the inquiry into children's social care that was brought to an early close by the General Election. The cross-party Committee will continue with the same terms of reference as used in the previous Education Committee inquiry into children's social care, which launched in December 2023, aiming to hold additional oral evidence sessions, and follows on from the UK Government's announcement of new reforms to the sector on 18 November 2024.

Mental Health

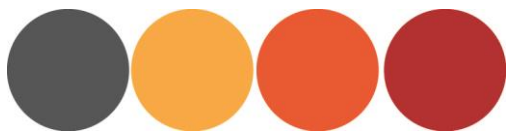
[Need for improvement in mental health support for children and young people \(Wales\)](#)

Healthcare Inspectorate Wales (HIW), Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW), and Estyn have published a joint report on how healthcare, education, and children's services are supporting the mental health needs of children and young people in Wales. Key findings include that despite provision of mental health support by non-specialist CAMHS, children and young people are still missing out on timely and effective support, follow-up care remains a major challenge, there are disparities with the eligibility criteria and thresholds for accessing CAMHS, and calls for stronger partnerships between health and local authorities to ensure children and young people get the right care at the right time.

Other Health and Social Care

[Committee overview of Scottish Government's proposed amendments to NCS Bill](#)

The Health, Social Care and Sport Committee has published an overview of the Scottish Government's proposed stage 2 amendments to the National Care Service (NCS) Bill and a [summary of views](#) gathered by the Committee on those amendments. The key messages from the views gathered by the Committee suggests that stakeholders remain frustrated by the lack of progress, and uncertainty on aspects such as Anne's Law and representation boards. The paper also notes that there is increased uncertainty among stakeholders following the withdrawal of support for the Bill by COSLA, Unions and opposition parties.



Other

[Draft Members' Bill on youth work](#)

The MSP Martin Whitfield has lodged a Members' Bill for a 'Proposed Youth Work (Scotland) Bill', which aims to ensure accessible, well-funded, and high-quality youth work services across Scotland, supporting the holistic development, well-being, and social inclusion of young people, and ensuring equal opportunities for all, regardless of background or circumstance.

Workforce

[SSSC urges training providers and employers to offer new SVQ qualification](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) is calling on training providers and employers to offer the new SVQ Integrated Health and Social Care SCQF Level 7. The new qualification promotes the integrated value of health and social care and is designed for the adult social care and children and young people workforce across integrated health and social care.

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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