



[Covid-19](#)

[Child Protection](#)

[Early Learning and
Childcare](#)

[Looked After and
Accommodated Children](#)

[Other](#)

Covid-19

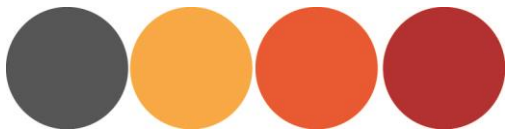
[Further impact hearings planned for 2025](#)

The Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry will hold impact hearings on two additional themes in 2025. The additional themes are Worship and Life Events (29 April – 2 May 2025) and Equalities and Human Rights (10-20 June 2025).

Child Protection

[Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill \(England\)](#)

The UK Government has published the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill which includes a range of measures to improve safeguarding of children in England. The Bill includes provisions on family group decision making on child protection, strengthening the role of education in safeguarding and improving information-sharing. Further measures are included on kinship care, support for children leaving care, more powers for Ofsted on holding providers to account and financial oversight responsibilities for the Department for Education.



Early Learning and Childcare

[Progress update on shared inspection framework](#)

The Care Inspectorate and Education Scotland have issued a joint statement on progress towards the delivery of the new Quality Improvement Framework for the early learning and childcare sectors. It confirms that the new framework and quality indicators will be piloted in some settings from late January to March 2025. The Care Inspectorate and Education Scotland will continue to listen to feedback and may make further adjustments ahead of full implementation of the new framework from September 2025.

[Analysis of childcare provision in England published](#)

The Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) and Save the Children have published analysis of the quality and quantity of childcare provision in England, highlighting which areas have the lowest numbers of childcare places. The research reveals that the ongoing expansion of childcare provision in England is at risk of not delivering for families in the most deprived areas. The IPPR and Save the Children have proposed a series of policies to support childcare providers and families, recommending the establishment of not-for-profit nursery trusts and a national long-term strategy for childminders including a return to mandatory Ofsted registration and inspection.

Looked After and Accommodated Children

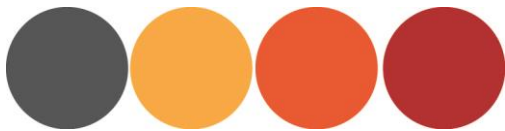
[Progress Framework published on Keeping The Promise](#)

The Promise Progress Framework has been published jointly by The Promise Scotland, Scottish Government and COSLA to give the first high-level understanding of progress towards Keeping The Promise. The framework contains a range of data detailing progress, including indicators showing where Scotland was in 2020 and where we are now. These indicators include data around health, inspection, social work, poverty and education. The Framework also highlights where there are gaps in the data specifically relating to care experienced children and young people.

Other

[SSSC Annual Report 2023-2024](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has published their 2023-2024 Annual Report, which reflects on a number of developments over the past year including the review of SSSC's approach to qualifications and continuous professional learning and the review of Codes of Practice for Workers and Employers. The report also highlights the release of more data on the registered workforce and reports on key registration information and fitness to practise data.



[NES taking part in accreditation programme to address barriers women face at work](#)

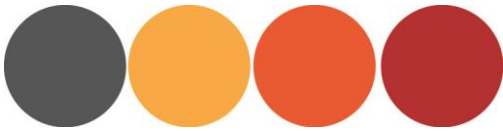
NHS Education for Scotland (NES) has announced that it is participating in the Equally Safe at Work accreditation programme. The programme, developed by Close the Gap, supports employers to improve their employment practice to advance gender equality at work and prevent violence against women.

[Tests developed for forthcoming child poverty strategy](#)

Ahead of the publication of the UK Government's Child Poverty Strategy in Spring 2025, the End Child Poverty Coalition has developed eight tests for the strategy to be assessed against. The tests cover a range of factors including the importance of making the views of babies, children, young people and families central, and ensuring the strategy works with all levels of government across the four UK nations. The Coalition also believes an independent scrutiny body should be established to monitor the strategy's progress.

[SSSC sets out its role in addressing inappropriate behaviour in the workplace](#)

The SSSC has highlighted employers' legal duty to prevent sexual harassment in the workplace and the SSSC's role in addressing this issue within the social service sector. The SSSC has a legal duty to eliminate discrimination and harassment carried out due to sex, race and other protected characteristics and notes that when a worker has been affected by a colleague's inappropriate behaviour, their employer may (and in some cases must) make a fitness to practise referral.

**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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