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Early Learning and Childcare

[New quality framework for early learning and childcare](#)

The Care Inspectorate and Education Scotland have published a joint statement confirming the new Quality Improvement framework for the early learning and childcare sectors is now available. A list of frequently asked questions about the new framework has also been published and both bodies will continue to listen to feedback ahead of its full implementation from September 2025. Further engagement sessions will take place in the coming months to support providers in becoming more familiar with the new framework and support self-evaluation.

[Nursery sustainability and budget impact survey](#)

The National Day Nurseries Association has launched a survey for early years settings to give their views on nursery funding, costs, fees and business performance. The data will be used to present evidence to Government on the impact of financial pressure on the sector and families. A [survey has been launched](#) for settings in Scotland, which includes questions on the increases in wages and National Insurance contributions, hourly rates for 3- and 4-year olds and wider challenges of delivering the 1140 hours funded childcare policy.



Mental Health

[Mental Welfare Commission seeks views from families and carers](#)

The Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland has launched an online questionnaire gathering views from families and carers on their experiences of dealing with services in their carer role. The online questionnaire will close on 3 February 2025.

[Time to Talk Day 2025 will take place on 6 February](#)

The ALLIANCE has highlighted this year's Time to Talk Day will take place on 6 February. This year's theme is 'get comfortable and start talking about mental health'. The ALLIANCE highlights that talking can be the first step towards better mental health for everyone, it can reduce stigma and help people feel comfortable to seek help.

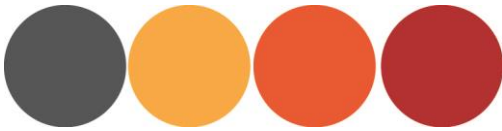
Other

[Update on SSSC registration fees](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council has published an update on its recent consultation on proposals to increase registration fees. The SSSC is now analysing responses and registrants will be informed if fees are increasing and by how much in March 2025. Any increase is likely to start from 1 April.

[ALLIANCE report highlights issues around economic, social and cultural rights](#)

The Health and Social Care Alliance (the ALLIANCE) has submitted a report to the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights for its examination of rights in the UK. In the report, the ALLIANCE highlight issues of concern about incorporation, SNAP 2, human rights monitoring, and the impact of budget cuts on disabled people, people with long term conditions, unpaid carers, and the third sector.



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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