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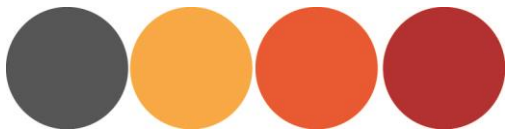
[Workforce](#)

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Care Experience

[Changes to fostering, adoption and continuing care inspections](#)

The Care Inspectorate is making some changes to how it inspects fostering, adoption and continuing care adult placement services. To ensure continuity of inspection across the three service types, proportionate regulation, and to meet frequency rules, the Care Inspectorate will adopt a more flexible approach to regulation in the 2025-26 inspection year. Where the provider's services all meet the criteria for inspection, the current methodology will apply. Where there are differences in evaluations, a more flexible approach will be applied.



Early Learning and Childcare

[Council votes against removal of funded places in PVI sector](#)

Plans to remove 150 funded children from private, voluntary and independent (PVI) nurseries and stop funding future 1140-hour childcare places in Falkirk were voted down by councillors last week. The Council voted for an amendment which dismissed the proposal to cut funding for children's services, on the grounds of inadequate Equality Poverty and Impact Assessment and potential for legal challenge.

[Webinar for childminding businesses](#)

The Scottish Childminding Association is inviting members to a free webinar event titled Protecting Your Childminding Business on 2 April. The event will cover handling tricky conversations with parents, setting up solid policies to avoid unpaid childcare fees and keeping your business protected.

[Fitness to practise referrals in day care of children services](#)

The SSSC has published information on the most common types of referrals on fitness to practise in day care of children services. The most common types of impairment for day care of children registrants were practice failings and inappropriate behaviour at work, with each accounting for almost a quarter of cases. Behaviour outside of work made up another 12 per cent of referrals. The most frequent single type of impairment was a failure to follow procedures, which was present in 8 per cent of referrals. Neglect of a child, inappropriate behaviour towards a colleague and moving and handling were also among the most common.

Education

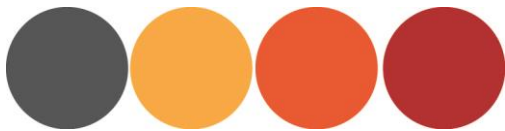
[National evaluation of councils' support for school improvement](#)

Education Scotland has published a national evaluation of how local authorities support school improvement following visits to all 32 councils in Scotland. The report highlights strong leadership, effective self-evaluation, and collaborative working as key strengths, while also identifying inconsistencies in the level and quality of support provided to schools. It calls for a stronger focus on ensuring all schools receive high-quality, well-moderated support and that leadership development at all levels is strengthened.

Workforce

[Staff vacancies in care services 2023](#)

The Care Inspectorate and Scottish Social Services Council have published the Staff Vacancies in Care Services 2023 report, showing the percentage of care services reporting staff vacancies dropped slightly in 2023, only a year after reaching a record high. The report shows that 48 per cent of care services were reporting staff



vacancies and 63 per cent of services with vacancies reported having problems filling them.

[Learning resources for social workers and social care workforce](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has highlighted free learning resources available through its continuous professional learning (CPL) website. The website helps people find free resources to support their continuous professional learning and gives suggested topics and areas for development within career pathways and the core learning elements.

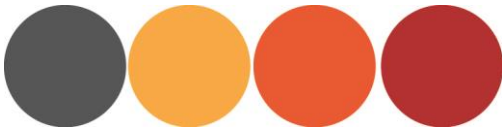
[SSSC advice on raising concerns relating to racism and discrimination](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has published an article on dealing with racism and discrimination for the social work, social care and children and young people workforce. The article provides a breakdown of the main types of racial discrimination and what registrants can do if they experience racism connected to their work. The SSSC investigates concerns alleging racist conduct by registrants in line with its Fitness to Practice Rules.

Other

[Self-directed Support Improvement Plan 2023-27](#)

The Scottish Government has published the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework for the Self-directed Support Improvement Plan 2023-27 to set out how the government will measure progress of the plan by collecting evidence of the impact of activities and the story towards positive change. The framework is intended to identify good practice, challenges and gaps, track progress towards the four key outcomes, continue collaboration with people with lived experience and key partners, and contribute information to wider social care improvement work.



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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