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## Disability

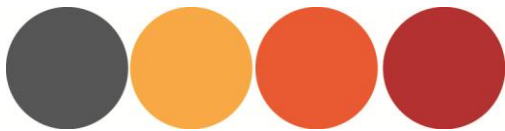
### [Inquiry into impact of BSL legislation](#)

The Scottish Parliament's Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee has launched an inquiry into the impact of the British Sign Language (Scotland) Act 2015. A call for evidence has opened and respondents are asked to share views on whether the 2015 Act and the current BSL National Plan are improving the lives of BSL users. Respondents are also invited to suggest what changes could be made in the short and long term to improve the lives of BSL users.

## Early Learning and Childcare

### [Five year strategic plan launched by flexible childcare organisation](#)

Flexible Childcare Services Scotland has published its five year strategic plan for 2025-2030. The organisation's overall vision is to "create a world where every child and family has access to the services they need to thrive". The plan includes actions such as creating and deploying tools to encourage childcare providers and policy makers to embrace and deliver a flexible childcare model. The organisation also plans to explore opportunities and create new services in areas of high deprivation using a community co-design model.



### [Sustainable rates information published by Government](#)

The Scottish Government has published information provided by local authorities on the sustainable rates they have set for early learning and childcare (ELC) providers in the private, third and childminding sectors to deliver funded ELC.

### [First funded school-based nurseries announced](#) (England)

Nursery World has reported on the first 300 school-based nurseries in England to be approved for Department of Education funding to provide up to 4000 early learning and childcare places by September 2025. The article notes that it is not clear whether any of the nurseries will be using PVI providers to deliver the provision, which the UK Government hopes will rise to 6000 places in total.

## **Education**

### [Analysis of views on relationships, sexual health and parenthood education](#)

Analysis of the responses to a public consultation on draft statutory guidance for relationships, sexual health and parenthood (RSHP) education has been published by the Scottish Government. The findings will be used to inform revisions to the draft guidance. Work to amend the revised guidance will be taken forward by the Core Review Group over the course of 2025.

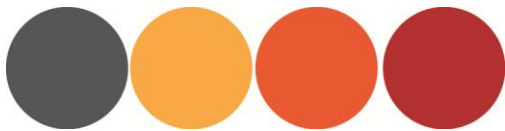
### [Children's Commissioner report on education reform](#)

The Children and Young People's Commissioner for Scotland has published a report on education and what children and young people believe should change in the system. The report includes recommendations to put children's rights at the heart of the education system, including better support for those with additional needs, fairer access to subject choices, and a national online learning offer. The report calls for fundamental reform that focuses on each child's potential.

## **Health**

### [Preschool children should not be given drinks with sweeteners](#)

The Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition has published recommendations suggesting preschool children should not be given any drinks containing artificial sweeteners. After reviewing the available evidence, the Committee said proof that sweeteners are cutting tooth decay is "poor", although a reduction in free sugars, alongside other positive changes to diet, is likely to be beneficial to health overall. The review says preschool children should become accustomed to drinking water instead.



## Justice

### [CYCJ Strategic Plan](#)

The Children and Young People's Centre for Justice (CYCJ) has published its 2025-2028 strategic plan. Its key strategic priorities are centred around system change, community and the adults around the child or young person.

## Mental Health

### [Urgent appeal launched to tackle mental health concerns](#)

A children's charity has launched an urgent appeal for support to address the mental health crisis faced by children in Scotland. Children First highlighted its recent survey which showed 92 per cent of children and young people aged 11-25 were worried about mental health. They are warning that this cannot become "the new normal" and urged the public to support its appeal.

## Other

### [New Scottish Public Services Ombudsman](#)

MSPs have voted to appoint Paul McFadden as the new Scottish Public Services Ombudsman (SPSO), succeeding Rosemary Agnew. Mr McFadden, currently Chief Ombudsman for the Legal Ombudsman, will take up the new position in October, with Andrew Crawford appointed in the interim. Mr McFadden recently served as Acting Northern Ireland Public Services Ombudsman after heading up the SPSO's Complaints Standards Authority. He also previously helped establish Scotland's first independent Police Complaints Commission and the UK Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration.

### [Insights report on Getting it Right for Every Child \(GIRFEC\)](#)

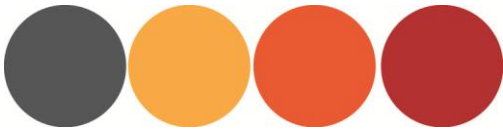
The ALLIANCE has published the GIRFEC Insights report after hosting a series of regional events to explore next steps for improving how GIRFEC is delivered. Based on discussions held throughout the sessions, the report outlines ideas for shaping the future of GIRFEC including better joined-up working, supporting the workforce, improving support and systems, developing resources and raising awareness.

### [Young inspection volunteers wanted](#)

The Care Inspectorate is looking for young people with a personal experience of care to volunteer as a young inspection volunteer. A series of training days will be held in June.

### [Development of social work graduate apprenticeship](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) is working with the Scottish Government and Skills Development Scotland to create a graduate apprenticeship



route to becoming a social worker. The graduate apprenticeship will combine work-based training and academic learning to gain a social work degree, with the same requirements to achieve the graduate apprenticeship degree the same as the requirements for students studying through current routes but delivered in a different way. It creates an additional pathway for those wishing to enter the social work profession who are unable to access study through the current routes.

### [Provision of workforce qualifications and demand](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has published the 'Workforce Skills Report 2025', which analyses the current training provision within the social work, social care and children and young people sector and evaluates how well it meets the demand for qualifications arising from SSSC registration. The report also offers insights into the projected demand for qualifications over the next five years and compares this with current levels of provision.

#### **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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