



Children and Young People



[Additional Support Needs](#)

[Care Experience](#)

[Child Protection](#)

[Disability](#)

[Early Learning and Childcare](#)

[Education](#)

[Equalities](#)

[Health](#)

[Justice](#)

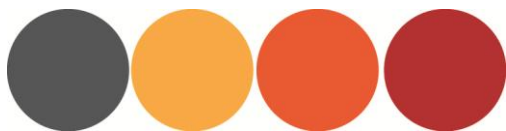
[Mental Health](#)

[Other Health and Social Care](#)

Care Experience

[Data on children who are looked after](#)

The Scottish Government has published 'Children's Social Work Statistics: Looked After Children 2023/24', covering data on children who are looked after, young people in continuing care, and young people eligible for aftercare services. Amongst other findings, the statistics report that on 31 July 2024, 11,844 children were looked after – down 2% since 31 July 2023 (12,084) and down 24% since 2013-14 (15,600), and the rate of children looked after per 1,000 children was 11.7 in 2024, which is the lowest rate since 2005. For care leavers, during 2023-24, 967 young people aged 16 years or over ceased to be looked after and were eligible for continuing care, and of these, 33% (315) entered continuing care.



Care Experience

[Oversight Board for the promise are recruiting for new members](#)

The Oversight Board, established in January 2021 to monitor, track and report on Scotland's progress to keep the promise, are recruiting for new members. They are looking for applicants with an interest in – but not exclusive to – poverty, education, health and homelessness, and particularly welcome applications from people from diverse backgrounds. Applications close on 5 May.

[Report on family group decision making](#)

A report has been published by Children First on 'Family Group Decision Making in Scotland', suggesting that there is a clear place for family group decision making (FGDM) within Scotland's care and protection system but that "weaknesses in legislation, policy and funding arrangements create barriers which stop children that need family group decision making from accessing it." The research, supported by Promise Partnership Funding from the Keep the Promise Fund, makes four recommendations that FGDM, in line with the National Standards, needs a clear and certain place in legislation and policy, steps should be taken to address the fact that one third of local authorities in Scotland do not offer FGDM, opportunities to build on the existing work in areas where FGDM is already offered should be explored simultaneously, to support effective implementation, and that a sustainable funding model or central fund for FGDM in Scotland should be put in place to support implementation of the recommendations above.

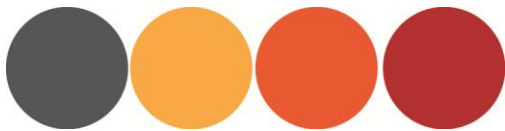
Covid-19

[Timetable for worship and life events impact hearings](#)

The Scottish COVID-19 Inquiry has published the timetable for its worship and life events impact hearings, due to take place from 29 April to 2 May 2025, and is now accepting requests to attend.

These hearings will highlight issues and impacts in relation to:

- restrictions on routine religious observance
- restrictions on religious and non-religious celebratory events, including weddings, baptisms, funerals, coming-of-age celebrations and religious holidays
- the closure of religious buildings used for both worship and wider community activities
- the delivery and reception of remote pastoral support
- the ability to receive pastoral support at home
- the ability to practice religion in non-traditional settings, including prisons, schools, hospitals, hospices and airports



[Scottish Inquiry Chief Executive's update](#)

The Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry has published an update from its Chief Executive for April 2025, covering prisoner case studies, health and social care impact witness statements, autumn hearings on Covid measures and implementation and decision-making hearings.

Early Learning and Childcare

[Focus Area Early learning and childcare and school-aged childcare services](#)

For our inspections from April 2026, we are undertaking a focus area to help us understand more about how services support children's safety, wellbeing and engagement in their play and learning. This is following on from our activity to reduce incidents of children leaving settings unobserved by staff, including our very successful [Keeping children safe - look, think, act campaign](#). As part of the focus area, we will also identify any areas of good practice that we may wish to share as part of our report. There will be no change to the inspection process for services, however we will reference the focus area within the report introduction.

Included within the Focus area will be the following aspects:

- staff deployment
- safety of the physical environment, indoors and outdoors
- the quality of personal plans
- children's engagement with the experiences provided in their setting

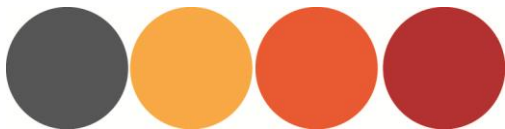
Workforce

[Survey of social work, social care and children and young people workforce](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) have published the findings of their 'Have Your Say Workforce Wellbeing Survey'. The survey report provides insights from people working in the social work, social care and children and young people workforce on a wide range of topics, including wellbeing, pay, terms and conditions, support, access to training and qualifications and general experiences of working in the sector. The findings will help the SSSC and key partners, including Scottish Government, to find out more about the experience of working in this field, as well as informing the development of national policies that have an impact on this sector and approaches on how best to support the workforce.

[Continuous professional learning \(CPL\) requirements](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) are publicising the changes to continuous professional learning (CPL) requirements for core learning elements. They have moved away from recording hours and days to focus on key skills and knowledge required at important career stages, such as induction, change of role and return to practice, and CPL requirements include core learning elements suitable for you based on your work and career.



Other Health and Social Care

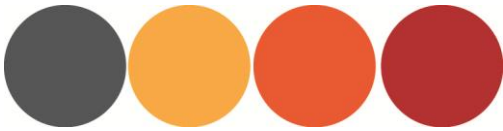
[Help shape our next Corporate Plan](#)

Our current [Corporate Plan](#) set out our vision, purpose, and values for the 2022-2025 period. It also set out our business model, strategic objectives and the key principles we would follow to help us achieve these. We are now developing our new Corporate Plan, taking into account the changing landscape of health and social care. We want everyone with an interest in care and in what we do, to have the opportunity to share their views about our strategic outcomes and help shape our new Corporate Plan. Complete our survey or sign up for one of our online events [here](#).

Your role in the Care Inspectorate's Digital Transformation

We are excited to announce the next phase in our Stage 2 Digital Transformation, aimed at modernising our regulatory systems to enhance scrutiny and improvement activities. To ensure this is a user-led transformation, we are seeking feedback from people who use our systems so that we can understand your needs, what works well, and what can be improved. Your involvement could range from participating in design discussions to testing the new system.

If you're interested, please fill out [this short MS Form](#). Our partners at Capgemini will contact you when needed. Completing the form does not commit you to anything, and we will understand if you have other priorities later.



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.

It should also be noted that the Care Inspectorate has no liability in respect of the content of external websites which may be signposted on this site.