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Care Experience

[Consideration of proposals for a Promise Bill](#)

After the announcement about the Children and Young People (Care) (Scotland) Bill in the Programme for Government, the Promise Scotland has published a range of documents created to support the Scottish Government and enable others to engage with the proposed legislative change. The documents include a briefing for the Scottish Government on key areas of consideration for legislative change, a report, from solicitor Melanie Barbour, on understanding the current laws around the 'care system', what changes would make things simpler and easier for children, families, care experienced adults and the workforce to understand, and options for how to improve things. There is also a high level summary of the areas The Promise Scotland has identified potentially need legislative change, and a table setting out all the relevant laws.



Care Experience

[Call for independent advocacy for care experienced people](#)

The Scottish Children's Services Coalition (SCSC) are calling for a right to lifelong, independent advocacy for care experienced people, to be included in the proposed Children and Young People (Care) Bill. This legislation aims to further support The Promise, produced by the Independent Care Review in 2020, and which is Scotland's pledge to care experienced children and young people that they will grow up loved, safe, and respected, and the SCSC sees this as an opportunity to enshrine the right to advocacy in law.

Covid-19

[Next public hearings to start and dates for final hearings in UK Covid Inquiry](#)

The UK Covid-19 Inquiry will start the public hearings for the Module 7 investigation on the different test, trace and isolate programmes across the four nations of the UK, and has confirmed dates for the final public hearings, Module 10, in February 2026.

Disability

[British Sign Language dictionary for the Children's Reporter](#)

The Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA) has added a British Sign Language (BSL) video dictionary to their website which features some of the most common words/phrases in the Children's Hearings System. SCRA worked with the British Deaf Association (Scotland) to create the video dictionary, and have also recently created a BSL walk through of a Children's Hearings centre.

Early Learning and Childcare

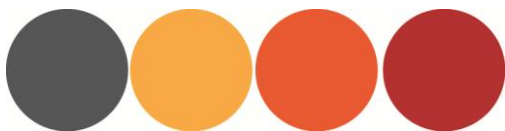
[Improvements to CPL portal for the ELC workforce](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has improved the Continuous Professional Learning (CPL) portal for the Early Learning and Childcare Workforce to provide better support for the workforce. Supporting the early learning and childcare workforce and employers with their professional development, the portal lists training providers and learning opportunities in one directory, alongside national online modules and an induction resource.

Other Health and Social Care

[A review of social work governance and assurance across Scotland](#)

A review of social work and social care services carried out by the Care Inspectorate found that overall, social work leaders and managers in Scotland worked effectively within often complicated governance arrangements. In most cases these



arrangements were well understood by staff. However, inspectors also found that Scotland's social work services were finding it challenging to match supply with demand and this was exacerbated by increased levels of complexity of need and risk. This meant that social work was at risk of being unable to fulfil its statutory duties in some service areas. A national approach is required to tackle the ongoing recruitment and retention crisis in social work.

[Support for commissioners to implement ethical commissioning and procurement](#)

The Institute for Research and Innovation in Social Services (Iriss) has published a report which aims to support commissioners in implementing ethical commissioning and procurement practices within adult social care. Developed in conjunction with the 'Action Learning Set group', the 'Ethical Commissioning Support for Commissioners Learning Report' is intended to be used as a guide for commissioners and others to better understand how to implement the ethical commissioning and procurement principles, support improvement of commissioning practice at local level, and highlight ongoing solutions for the future.

Other

[Programme for Government 2025-26](#)

The First Minister, John Swinney, has set out the Programme for Government for 2025-26, announcing the main policy and legislative priorities for the year ahead. Included in the Programme for Government is a Children and Young People (Care) (Scotland) Bill will be introduced before summer recess to make changes in key areas related to the children's care system, publish a strategy for Public Service Reform in June 2025, with a "strong focus" on efficiency and a prevention-first approach, the National Social Work Agency will be established by Spring 2026, while the National Care Service Advisory Board will meet for the first time in May 2025, and the Scottish Government will develop climate change adaptation guidance specifically for the social care sector. Plans to modernise Adults with Incapacity legislation have been put on hold and the Scottish Government will no longer introduce a Bill on tackling misogyny.

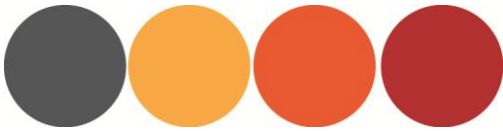
Play

[International Day of Play – 11 June 2025](#)

Play Scotland are highlighting the UN International Day of Play on 11 June 2025, which has the theme of 'Choose Play – Everyday'. Play Scotland are also asking people to make paper planes, see how far they can fly it and post their photos, tagging Play Scotland.

[National Day for Play – 6 August 2025](#)

Play Scotland is publicising the national day for play, organised by Play Scotland, Play Board Northern Ireland, Play England, and Play Wales, and held on 6 August



2025. The theme is #SpacesForPlay as every child deserves welcoming, inclusive spaces to play, connect, and thrive.

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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