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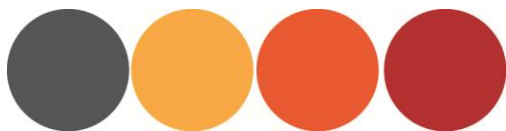
Care Experience

[National campaign launched for foster carers](#)

The First Minister, John Swinney, this week launched a new national recruitment campaign to help find more local authority foster carers. It comes as the Fostering Network estimates that at least 400 additional foster carers are needed in Scotland. The Scottish Government campaign seeks to raise awareness of the benefits of fostering and encourage people across the country to consider if they could support a child or young person in the care system. The campaign was launched at John Lewis, who are a foster friendly employer and run a Care Experienced internship.

[Upcoming events hosted by The Promise Scotland](#)

The Promise Scotland is hosting a number of events over the coming months, both in-person and online. Details have been shared on their website, including events on: exploring and managing power balance in co-design teams; community of practice for siblings; and the Promise Learning Collaborative.



Early Learning and Childcare

[Bright Start Breakfasts fund open for applications](#)

A new fund to support the expansion of access to breakfast clubs for primary school children in Scotland has opened. Delivered by Inspiring Scotland, the Bright Start Breakfasts Fund will enable existing breakfast clubs to expand their provision and support the establishment of new breakfast clubs where there is a need in the 2025/26 academic year. Funding will be prioritised to clubs that support access to families on the lowest incomes, or most at risk of living in poverty, providing access regardless of their ability to pay.

[Consultation on space requirements in early years childcare settings in England](#)

A consultation by the Department for Education proposes changes to floor space requirements for children in early years settings in England, ahead of the rollout of the expanded funded offer from September. The consultation is seeking views on whether or not free-flow outdoor areas should be included in floor space measurements for children aged 2 and above. Current Early Years Foundation Stage regulations only formally recognise indoor space in its requirements for how many children can be looked after in a setting.

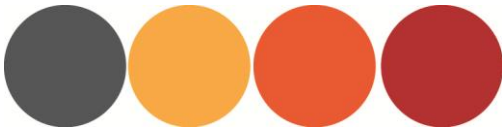
Mental Health

[High number of children concerned about their mental health](#)

It is Mental Health Awareness Week (12-18 May) and Children First are calling on parents and carers to call its support line if they are worried about their child's mental health, highlighting a recent survey suggesting 92 per cent of children have mental health concerns. The survey also showed less than one in four children aged between 11 and 25 believed childhood is better now than when their parents were young.

[Men Minds mental health project publishes comic](#)

The Men Minds project, led by Dr Nina Vaswani of the Children and Young People's Centre for Justice, has published a comic which features stories of boys and young men affected by mental health issues. The comic aims to normalise conversations about mental health and reduce stigma. The stories in the comic are based on real-life experiences that have been shared during the research, although the characters in the comic are fictional.



Workforce

[New interactive dashboard offers weekly updates on SSSC register](#)

A new interactive dashboard providing weekly updated data on the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) register has been launched. The dashboard provides access to real time updates on registered individuals, removals from the SSSC register and findings from the leavers survey.

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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