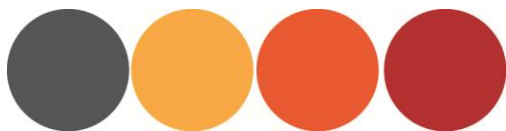


[Care Experience](#)[Early Learning and  
Childcare](#)[Health](#)[Workforce](#)[Other](#)**Care Experience**[Minister writes to foster carers](#)

The Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise has written to all foster carers in Scotland as part of Foster Care Fortnight (12-25 May). The letter offers thanks to foster carers for their dedication, care and commitment and recognises the challenges facing those in the role. The Minister highlights the Scottish Government's plans to increase support for foster and kinship carers through the Scottish Recommended Allowance.

**Early Learning and Childcare**[Letter from anti-poverty campaigners urge against mothballing](#)

Third Force News has highlighted a joint letter organised by the Poverty Alliance which says people on low incomes will be hit hardest by planned nursery closures in Aberdeenshire. The letter has been signed by around 12 charities and groups ahead of a Council meeting where the closure of four nurseries in Sandhaven, Huntly, Crathes and Aboyne will be discussed.



### [Survey findings on childminding delivered from non-domestic premises](#)

The Scottish Childminding Association has shared the findings of a survey of members, which focused on whether legislation and regulations should be changed to permit childminding to also be delivered from non-domestic premises. The survey was launched in response to the shortage of childcare in rural and island areas, the ongoing review of care definitions in Scotland and the introduction of a new category of childminder in England. The main findings show:

- 53 per cent of respondents support childminders having the option to deliver on non-domestic premises (24% per cent opposed, 23 per cent unsure).
- 71 per cent of those in favour prefer a mixed model (home and non-domestic), with only 20 per cent supporting wholly non-domestic delivery.
- Respondents were divided on whether it would be possible to maintain the nurturing, home-based nature of childminding in non-domestic settings: 34 per cent said it wasn't possible, 29 per cent partially, and 28 per cent fully.

## **Health**

### [Report highlights gaps and pressures in community child health services](#)

A report by the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health highlights the challenges facing community child health services in Scotland. During research for the report, there was found to be a lack of consistent data collection. The report's recommendations outline the urgent need for data, a sustainable child health workforce and positive transitions to adult services.

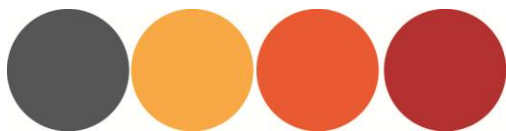
### [Changes to childhood vaccination programme](#)

Public Health Scotland is working with the Scottish Government and NHS boards to make changes to the childhood vaccination programme, following a review by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI). The changes, which will begin from July 2025, are based on the latest scientific evidence and designed to maintain high levels of protection for children. The full list of changes can be [viewed](#) on the JCVI website.

## **Workforce**

### [Planned downtime for SSSC website](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) website and MySSSC website will not be available on Monday 26 May until the afternoon of Tuesday 27 May, due to planned downtime. Alternative contact details have been provided for anyone reporting an urgent fitness to practise concern or with urgent enquiries.



### [Social work bursary uplift](#)

The Scottish Government has announced details of the social work bursary increase for students commencing courses in the academic year beginning August 2025. From 1 June, students will be able to apply for £11,000, split between £6,000 towards living costs and £5,000 for course fees. The scheme, funded by the Scottish Government and administered by the SSSC, will provide support to up to 250 students in the coming academic year.

### **Other**

### [International Day of Play event](#)

The Children and Young People's Commissioner for Scotland will host an assembly to celebrate children's human rights on UN International Day of Play, 11 June. Children are invited to attend the interactive session to share views on play that will inform the Commissioner's work on rights to international 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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