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**Carers**

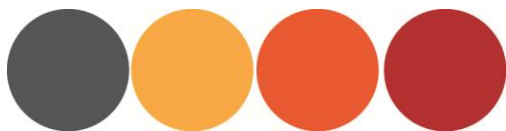
[Challenges facing parent carers flagged in new report](#)

A survey by charity Family Funs has shown the high levels of exhaustion, poor mental health, and extreme loneliness faced by parent carers of children with medically complex needs or disabilities, due to being unable to meet vital extra caring costs. The survey of 2,300 UK families found 44 per cent experience income insufficiency meaning they cannot meet every day expenses. In addition, 68 per cent of children are negatively affected by their family's financial situation, impacting emotional well-being, health, development and education.

**Care Experience**

[A decade of Virtual School Head Teachers](#)

CELCIS has marked ten years since the establishment of Scotland's Virtual School Head Teachers (VSHTs). VSHTs are senior members of local authority education staff who work at a strategic level, with their focus on improving the educational experiences and outcomes of all care experienced children and young people their local authority area is responsible for.



## Disability

### [Supporting children and young people who are Visually Impaired and Blind](#)

The Scottish Sensory Centre has launched a toolkit to support children and young people who are Blind or Visually Impaired. Developed by Elizabeth McCann, a Teaching Fellow in Visual Impairment based in the Scottish Sensory Centre, the guidance is for teachers, other professionals, parents and carers. It covers learners' continuity and progression in key areas including sensory development, language and literacy, technologies, habilitation, health and wellbeing and post school preparation.

## Early Learning and Childcare

### [Survey on school age childcare services using council-owned premises](#)

The Scottish Out of School Care Network has published the results of its Local Authority Premises Survey 2025. The survey looked at letting costs charged to school age childcare services by local authorities for the use of schools, community centres or other public sector premises. The survey highlights a "huge variation" in services having to pay for lets, sometimes even within the same local authority. SOSCN has raised the impact of this on overall financial sustainability and long-term ability to operate.

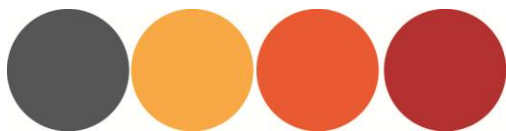
### [National survey on funded ELC costs](#)

Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise, Natalie Don-Innes, has provided details of a new national cost collection survey on funded early learning and childcare (ELC) in a letter to the Education, Children and Young People Committee. The letter confirms the survey aims to improve the data available to inform funded ELC rates-setting by local authorities, as part of the joint Scottish Government and COSLA Sustainable Rates Review.

## Health

### [Single use vapes banned to help stop youth smoking](#)

Public Health Scotland has welcomed the ban on the sale and supply of single-use vapes in Scotland, which came into force on 1 June. Disposable vapes were seen as cheap, attractive and widely available for young people and all governments across the UK agreed to introduce the ban as part of wider moves to create a smokefree generation.



## **Mental Health**

### [Progress on CAMHS waiting times](#)

The Scottish Government has released statistics showing the national standard on waiting times for children and young people accessing mental health services has been met for the second quarter in a row. The data suggests 91.6 per cent of those referred to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) were seen within 18 weeks from January to March, exceeding the Scottish Government's 90 per cent target.

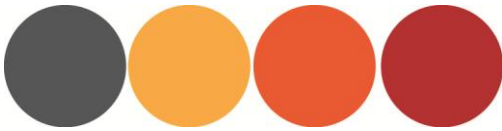
## **Other Health and Social Care**

### [Social Work Scotland Annual Conference – 9 October 2025](#)

The Social Work Scotland Annual Conference and Exhibition will take place on 9 October in Glasgow. The theme of this year's event is "Relationships as Catalysts for Change" and workshops will focus on relationships in the age of AI, restorative justice for systemic change and community-oriented practice.

### [Review of qualification and modern apprenticeship frameworks](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) will be reviewing the qualification and modern apprenticeship frameworks, working with Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA), SQA Accreditation and Skills Development Scotland to review the qualifications framework to ensure that benchmark SVQs accepted for registration with the SSSC are fit for purpose and reflect current and future practice, and reviewing the Modern Apprenticeship frameworks to ensure that these also reflect current and future practice. SSSC plan to set up a Qualification Design Team and also smaller groups covering apprenticeships, which will be involved in feedback and suggestions during the review process and help to redesign the frameworks. There will also be a formal consultation early in January 2026 about the reviewed qualifications and apprenticeships.

**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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