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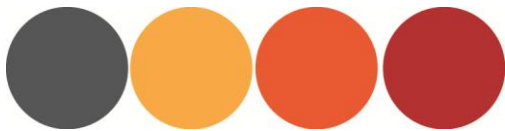
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Care Experience

[Introduction of Bill on care, care experience and services planning](#)

The Scottish Government has introduced the Children (Care, Care Experience and Services Planning) Bill, which aims to improve the experiences of children and young people in Scotland's care system. Changes include:

- giving people who left the care system before their 16th birthday the right to apply for aftercare
- requiring Scottish Ministers to ensure care-experienced people have access to advocacy services
- requiring Scottish Ministers to publish guidance which promotes understanding of "care" and "care experience"
- giving Scottish Ministers powers to limit the profits that can be made from children's residential care
- requiring fostering services to register as charities
- giving Scottish Ministers the power to create a register of foster carers
- making changes to the children's hearings system
- Integration Joint Boards are to be responsible for children's services planning, alongside local authorities and health boards



Care Experience

[Educational experiences of care experienced children and young people](#)

The Children's & Young People's Commissioner Scotland and Who Cares? Scotland have published a report into the educational experiences of care experienced children and young people. The report, 'Exclusion labelled as support: Care Experienced children in Scotland's education system', highlights areas of success and improvement across key themes such as culture, curriculum, personalisation and support, assessment and qualifications and purpose. Recommendations include the Promise commitment to end formal and informal exclusions must be enforced immediately, better understood and properly resourced across local authorities, the Scottish Government, Education Scotland, and all education authorities, schools and other educational settings must commit to adopting a whole-school approach to supporting Care Experienced children and young people, and the Scottish Government must legislate for a statutory right to independent, relationship-based, lifelong advocacy for all Care Experienced people who need it.

Child Protection

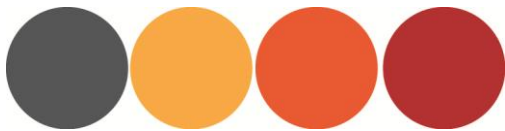
[Annual statistics for Children's Reporter Association](#)

The Scottish Children's Reporter Association (SCRA) has published its statistics for 2024/25, which show amongst other key findings that in 2024/2025, 9,789 children and young people in Scotland were referred to the Children's Reporter, which represents 1.1% of all children and young people in Scotland. The majority of children and young people (7,839) were referred due to concerns about them (care and protection grounds), lack of parental care is the most common ground (reason) assigned by Reporters when a child or young person is referred to the Reporter, and for very young children (those who were aged under one year) the principal concern identified in the referral related to a lack of parental care or having close connection with a person who has carried out domestic abuse. The most common age for children and young people to be referred to the Reporter was 14 years with 1,443 children referred at this age in 2024/25.

Early Learning and Childcare

[Statement on Cardenden Primary School Nursery, Lochgelly](#)

A spokesperson for the Care Inspectorate said: "An inspection has identified serious and significant concerns about the quality of care experienced by children at Cardenden Primary School Nursery in Lochgelly. We understand this is a difficult and distressing time for children, their families and staff at the service. However, our first priority is always the health and wellbeing of children. Because of our concerns we have issued an Improvement Notice to the service. This sets out the significant improvements that must be made within a specified timeframe. We are in contact with and monitoring the service to follow up on the required improvements."



[Funding for expansion of childcare access](#)

The Scottish Government has confirmed the 'Access to Childcare Fund' to provide funding to projects expanding childcare offers for families most at risk of living in poverty. Organisations will reportedly use funding to deliver free or subsidised breakfast clubs, after-school clubs, term-time and holiday childcare, as well as specialist provision for children with complex additional support needs.

Education

[Guidance on behaviour in schools](#)

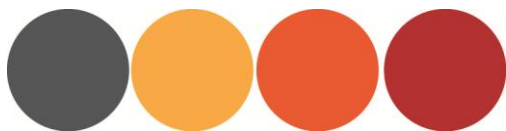
The Scottish Government has published 'Guidance on fostering positive, inclusive and safe school environments' and 'Risk assessment guidance for violent, aggressive and dangerous behaviour', both setting out a range of approaches for schools to consider when responding to behaviour. The guidance reportedly focuses on improving outcomes by reinforcing positive behaviour and working to reduce the likelihood of negative behaviour occurring in future, and various approaches are included, ranging from classroom management approaches, to support strategies and the use of exclusion as a last resort.

Other Health and Social Care

[Health and Social Care Service Renewal Framework](#)

The Scottish Government and COSLA have published a Health and Social Care Service Renewal Framework, including actions to "ensure the sustainability, efficiency, quality, and accessibility of health and social care services in Scotland". This has been published alongside [Scotland's Population Health Framework](#), aimed at embedding prevention in systems and improving healthy weight. A new public body called NHS Delivery will be established, merging the functions of NHS National Services Scotland (NSS) and NHS Education for Scotland (NES) to create "a single point of accountability and delivery for a wide range of support, training and digital services to the Health and Care system in Scotland". The Framework sets out five key principles for renewal:

- Prevention Principle: Prevention across the continuum of care
- People Principle: Care designed around people rather than the 'system' or 'services'
- Community Principle: More care in the community rather than a hospital focused model
- Population Principle: Population planning, rather than along boundaries
- Digital Principle: Reflecting societal expectations and system need



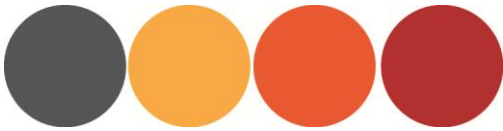
[Exploring future demand for healthcare services](#)

Public Health Scotland (PHS) has published an analysis of the possible future demand for healthcare services in Scotland over the next decade, focusing on unplanned NHS hospital activity and based on historic trends and projected demographic change. 'Projecting Future Demand for Health and Care Services in Scotland (2024-2034) - A Focus on Unplanned Inpatient Admissions to Acute Hospitals' reportedly estimates an 11.8% rise in unplanned hospital admissions between 2024 and 2034, from approximately 586,000 to 656,000, driven primarily by the impacts of an ageing population.

Other

[Review of supported bodies landscape](#)

The Scottish Parliament's SPCB Supported Bodies Landscape Review Committee has published its report on a review of the Scottish Parliament's Corporate Body (SPCB)'s supported bodies landscape. There are currently seven officeholders directly responsible to the Scottish Parliament, including the Scottish Commissioner for Children and Young People, Scottish Human Rights Commission, and Scottish Public Services Ombudsman, and proposal for a further five including a Patient Safety Commissioner for Scotland, a Members Bill proposing a Disability Commissioner, and a Members Bill proposing an Commissioner for Older People. The report's recommendations include the creation of a clear strategic framework including much strengthened accountability and scrutiny mechanisms, an enhanced shared services approach and a new formal process for considering future proposals to create new such bodies. The Committee also recommends that the Scottish Government "urgently undertakes a strategic mapping exercise to identify the functions of all Scottish public bodies and where they overlap, to inform decisions on future size, structure, and coherence across the public sector."



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](#).

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