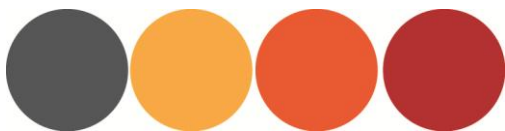


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Care Experience

[Statistics on children in kinship care](#)

The Scottish Government has published Kinship Care Statistics, using data from Scotland's Census 2022. The annual Scottish Government Looked After Children Statistics present the number of children who are in a formal kinship care placement, using data provided by local authorities, however, this does not include any information on informal kinship care arrangements and a derived variable has been produced from the Scotland's Census 2022 to indicate children who may be living in kinship care. Amongst other key findings, the statistics report that an estimated 12,800 children were in kinship care in 2022, with around two thirds of these in informal kinship care, 15% of children in kinship care were reported to have a long-term health condition or disability, 3.6% of children aged three or over in kinship care were acting as unpaid carers, and 44% of children in kinship care were living in social rented homes.



Child Protection

[Strategy focusing on prevention of human trafficking and exploitation](#)

Scotland's Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy 2025 has been published by the Scottish Government, the second strategy focused on prevention of human trafficking and exploitation. The vision of the Strategy is to prevent human trafficking and exploitation in Scotland and to respond effectively when it does occur, and the overarching purpose of this Strategy is to prevent trafficking and exploitation of adults and children by providing a clear framework, informed by survivor voices and data, through which their anti-trafficking interventions will be delivered. In Scotland, the exploitation and trafficking of children is a form of child abuse, requiring a child protection response, and child protection and support for victims of exploitation and trafficking falls within the broader Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) approach to improving outcomes for children and young people. Amongst other stated outcomes, the strategy aims to ensure that child and adult victims are identified, protected and supported to safety and long-term recovery, and conditions that expose children, adults and communities in Scotland to increased risks of trafficking and re-trafficking are addressed.

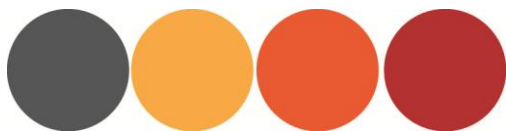
[BSL film detailing public hearings relating to Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry hearings](#)

The Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry has published a British Sign Language (BSL) film announcing public hearings relating to St Vincent's School for the Deaf and Blind, the Royal Blind School, and Donaldson's School for the Deaf. From August 2025 SCAI will examine the provision of residential care at all three establishments for children and young people (under the age of 18) with long-term healthcare needs, additional support needs, and disabilities covering the period up to the end of 2014.

Disability

[New centre in Glasgow to support expanded play and family support](#)

The Scottish Government has confirmed funding to enable The Yard to open a play centre in Glasgow to support expanded play and family support for disabled children and young people and their families. The funding will help The Yard take forward development of a site in Glasgow and refurbishment in Dundee and to expand their existing services in Edinburgh and Fife. The new facility provides children with a sensory room, play hall and outdoor space, while also providing a meeting room for parents and carers to receive family support.



Early Learning and Childcare

[Update to our Management of medication in daycare of children and childminding services report](#)

We have updated our Management of medication in daycare of children and childminding services report, with the key clarification that audit trails can be presented in both written and electronic formats.

Equalities

[How to involve children and young people in decision-making](#)

Updated guidance on 'Decision-making: children and young people's participation', and how to involve children and young people in decision-making. The guidance includes information on what participation looks like in practice, supporting those who want to engage with children and young people as part of their decision-making process.

Health

[Single injection to protect against RSV](#)

Following advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI), the Scottish Government has confirmed the replacement of five monthly jabs which were previously offered to higher-risk infants between October and February, with a single injection to protect against respiratory syncytial virus (RSV). In addition, the existing programme for higher risk infants is being expanded to include very preterm infants, born before 32 weeks.

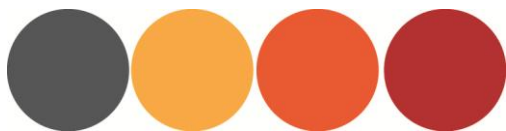
[Call for views on review of National Occupational Standards](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council is seeking views on the review of the National Occupational Standards for Health and Social Care and Children's Care Learning and Development. The review is considering improvements to simplify terminology, reduce duplication, streamline the performance criteria and ensure any gaps are addressed in the update. The consultation closes on 19 September.

Justice

[Annual report for centre for justice](#)

The Children and Young People's Centre for Justice (CYCJ) has published its annual report for 2024-2025, covering activity from April 2024 to March 2025. Amongst other activity, the CYCJ published reports on reimagining secure care, youth justice, and challenges in trauma-informed practice for children in policy custody.



Play

[Revised version of Getting it Right for Play](#)

A revised toolkit to assess and improve play opportunities, 'Getting it Right for Play', has been published by Play Scotland. This revised version of Getting it Right for Play reflects Scotland's strengthened commitment to children's right to play, aligned with the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 2019, National Planning Framework 4, and the UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024. It also supports delivery of Scotland's Play Vision Statement and Action Plan 2025:2030, which recognises place as a primary driver which can create 'free, accessible, inclusive and safe public play spaces, developed in consultation with children and families. This guidance acknowledges the specific needs and barriers specific groups of children face and provides local authorities — and local community groups — with practical assessment tools to help them evaluate and improve play opportunities and spaces.

Other Health and Social Care

[Restrictive practice 2024 - statistical bulletin](#)

We have published a statistical bulletin on the use of physical restraint and seclusion in care services for children and young people in 2024, focusing on services providing residential care and support. Amongst other key findings, the statistics report that there were 6,263 incidents of physical restraint in 2024, the number of reported physical restraints continues to be highest in care homes, there were 509 incidents of seclusion in 2024, and secure accommodation services continue to report the highest rates of physical restraint and seclusion per place.

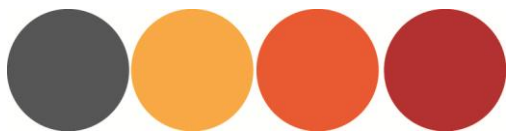
[Webinar on introduction to data analysis \(28 August 2025\)](#)

The Institute for Research and Innovation in Social Services (Iriss) will be hosting a free webinar as a practical introduction to data analysis, designed to compliment the particular demands of social work and social care professionals. This webinar is reportedly designed to demystify the world of data analysis, and also give you practical, actionable information, delivering an improvement in how you apply data.

Workforce

[Funding to support social care workers to qualify](#)

The Voluntary Sector Development Fund has been launched for 2025-26, the Scottish Government has announced. The funding supports workers in gaining the qualifications required for registration with the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) and is particularly valuable for small and medium-sized voluntary organisations.



[Progress on review of qualification and modern apprenticeship frameworks](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has updated on progress on their work to review the qualification and modern apprenticeship frameworks. The SSSC has finalised project planning with Skills Development Scotland (SDS), and the Qualification Design Team (QDT) has started co-designing the new SVQs, drawing on work from the ongoing review of the Skills for Care and Development National Occupational Standards (NOS). They are collating information from QDT subject matter experts, individuals with lived experience of care and support and Skills Development Scotland research to confirm the job roles and functions relevant to current and future sector practices, and their current focus is defining the mandatory units for different SVQ levels. Throughout 2025, the SSSC will identify which NOS will form the basis of qualifications which will enable the workforce to register with them.

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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