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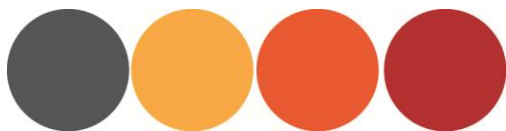
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## Care Experience

### [Information on the Promise Data and Evidence Group](#)

Information has been published on the Scottish Government website on the Promise Data and Evidence Group, including the membership, terms of reference and 12 month work programme. The Group brings together a network of analysts from across sectors and organisations to review the data and evidence landscape, identify activities to improve data infrastructure, and support research priorities that enhance understanding of progress.



## Care Experience

### [Guidance for the rest of the UK on placing children into residential care in Scotland](#)

The Scottish Government has published 'Cross-Border Placements (Effect of Deprivation of Liberty Orders) (Scotland) Regulations 2022: Practice Guidance, Notice and Undertaking Template', guidance primarily for local authority staff in England / Wales and any Health and Social Care Trust staff in Northern Ireland involved in the placing of children into Scottish residential care under a DOL order, which includes a Notice and Undertaking template. The guidance relates to the practice of local authorities elsewhere in the UK placing children into Scottish residential care under a Deprivation of Liberty ("DOL") order, which provides for DOL orders to be treated in Scotland as if they were Compulsory Supervision Orders (CSOs) - for specified purposes and subject to certain conditions. The guidance can also support Scottish authorities and services to understand what the placing authorities from England / Wales / Northern Ireland are required to do when placing a child with a DOL order into Scottish residential care.

## Child Protection

### [Fifteenth volume of case study findings published by Child Abuse Inquiry](#)

Lady Smith, Chair of the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry (SCAI), has published her findings relating to the provision of residential care for children at Keil School in Dumbarton, the fifteenth volume of case study findings so far for the SCAI. The report's findings include that there was a "disgraceful abdication of responsibility" resulting in widespread abuse, as school authorities prioritised its reputation over the interests of the children.

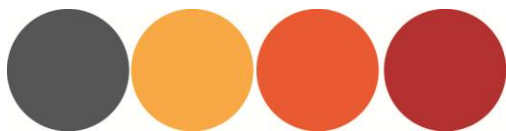
### [Social care reforms to prioritise earlier intervention \(England\)](#)

The UK Government has announced funding for councils in England to roll out early intervention child protection reforms to stop families from reaching crisis by strengthening leadership and speed up delivery, as part of its children's social care reforms. Plans include the roll out of Family Group Decision Making, and testing the use of the NHS number as a unique identifier to help piece data together across frontline health, schools and police services to detect concerns about children before they escalate.

## Covid-19

### [Case study published by Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry reflecting children's voices](#)

The Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry has published a case study through their public participation project, 'Let's Be Heard', highlighting children and young people's voices. The case study reflects their views on how the pandemic impacted their education, social development and mental wellbeing. Amongst other reported findings, two-thirds of respondents experienced some level of difficulty with online



learning when schools closed, and some felt they missed out on formative moments, such as the transition from primary school to high school, and some described feeling overlooked during the pandemic, particularly students in further and higher education. Some respondents shared positive aspects, including stronger family bonds and opportunities to develop new skills, but others described facing isolation, worry about family and friends, and additional caring responsibilities. The Let's Be Heard team continues its research and analysis and will produce a series of publications in 2026.

## **Equalities**

### [Scottish Government commit to drafting rules on UNCRC questions in tribunals](#)

Following a judicial review being raised by the Children's & Young People's Commissioner Scotland, the Scottish Government has committed to drafting and consulting on rules to ensure that UNCRC compatibility questions can be intimated to the Commissioner in Scottish Tribunals (including for example children's hearings, the mental health tribunal and the ASN tribunal). The Commissioner has been concerned that while rules have been made for the Scottish courts, Tribunals (which routinely consider children's rights issues) have been neglected.

## **Health**

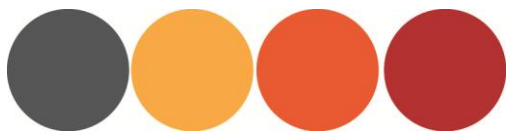
### [Updated toolkit to empower young people to manage their own health and wellbeing](#)

The Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (the ALLIANCE) through ALISS (A Local Information System for Scotland), has updated the 'Our Health, Our Place, Our Voice' toolkit, which aims to empower young people to take charge of their health and wellbeing. The toolkit includes interactive activities across five themes, designed to link to the Curriculum for Excellence and National Youth Work Outcomes and Skills Framework. A key part of the toolkit is introducing young people to ALISS, a national digital programme that helps people find and share information about health and wellbeing services in their communities.

## **Justice**

### [Framework to assist professionals recognise criminal exploitation of children](#)

The 'Criminal Exploitation of Children (CEC) Framework for Practice' has been published by the Children and Young People's Centre for Justice (CYCJ) and Action for Children, to help professionals recognise and respond to criminal exploitation of children (CEC) as a form of child abuse that must be responded to as a child protection issue. The framework aims to assist professionals working with children and young people to identify criminal exploitation, understand context, and intervene in ways that uphold rights and reduce harm, and consists of a screening tool, self-assessment tool and case examples. Supported by training, including a self-directed e-learning module, alongside guidance to help local areas embed the framework into their strategic responses and protocols, they are also developing more resources to support direct practice, family engagement, and multi-agency collaboration.



## **Mental Health**

### [Annual report on suicide prevention activity](#)

The 2024-2025 annual report by Suicide Prevention Scotland has been published, reflecting on the body's programme of activity and achievements of the last year. Key work included the commissioning of the Scottish Community Development Centre to support local organisations to undertake Community Led Action Research, and working with NHS boards to implement effective risk management alongside family and carer involvement in mental healthcare. Practical support has also been provided to local Suicide Prevention Leads and monthly drop-ins with the National Delivery Lead have been offered.

## **Other Health and Social Care**

### [Complaints about care services in Scotland, 2019/20 to 2024/25](#)

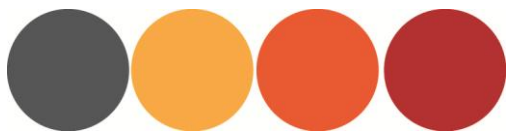
We have published a statistical bulletin on complaints about care services in Scotland, covering complaints received and investigated between April 2019 and March 2025. Reflecting how we actioned every complaint received using a risk-based assessment process to resolve complaints as quickly as possible for complainants, the bulletin shows we received 5,303 complaints in 2024/25, a 6% decrease on last year, and the majority of this decrease is due to fewer complaints about care homes. All complaints received were assessed to ensure they are within the remit of the Care Inspectorate to investigate, to ensure sufficient information is available and to ensure that the complainant wishes to proceed. If this was not the case, complaints were revoked. In 2024/25, 23% of complaints received were revoked, an increase from 22% in 2023/24, and a total of 4,055 complaints were resolved using one of four resolution pathways.

### [New podcast series on safe staffing](#)

The Care Inspectorate's safe staffing programme team has produced a series of podcasts on the implementation of the Health and Care (Staffing) (Scotland) Act 2019, which commenced on 1 April 2024. In this series of podcasts, we find out how the Care Inspectorate, registered services, professional bodies, integrated and local authorities prepared for the Act. We also explore what it means for people, young adults and children experiencing care, and staff working on the ground.

### [Charities' open letter calling for urgent action to avert a social care crisis](#)

Led by the Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (the ALLIANCE) and the Coalition of Care and Support Providers in Scotland (CCPS), and supported by among others Children First, the open letter to the First Minister calls for urgent action to address the health and social care crisis in Scotland. Actions for the Scottish Government include an immediate and substantial cash injection into third sector providers of health and social care, recovery plan for the sector, commitment



to multi-year funding, and a firm commitment to fully include the sector in making decisions about how services are planned and delivered.

#### [Anti-racism action plan for social work](#)

The Scottish Government has published the Anti-racism Action Plan for the social work sector, developed by the Social Work Anti-Racism Oversight Group. The action plan is cross-organisational and aims to foster a collective approach to addressing racism in social work. Strategic outcomes planned for 2025-2027 include: improvement of incident management; fostering anti-racist workplace cultures; advancing racial equity in social work leadership and workforce development; and promoting cultural competence. Meanwhile Iriss has published the [first national survey](#) on anti-racism in social work, published alongside the action plan.

### **Play**

#### [Play space assessment toolkit updated](#)

Play Scotland has launched an updated play space assessment toolkit to celebrate Play Day 2025. The resource reportedly gives step-by-step advice and tools to assess and improve play spaces, and acknowledges the specific needs and barriers specific groups of children face and provides local authorities and community groups with practical assessment tools to help them evaluate and improve play opportunities and spaces.

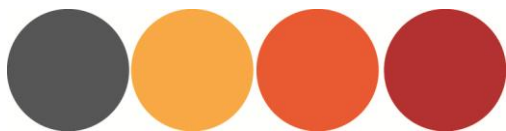
### **Workforce**

#### [Postgraduate social work qualification](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) is publicising places available for postgraduate social work courses starting in September 2025 and January 2026 and a bursary is available for up to £11,000. The postgraduate social work bursary has been increased by around 50% from June 2025, and students starting a master's degree in social work from August 2025 can now apply for up to £11,000 per year.

#### [Changes to notifications employers receive when an employment record changes](#)

Information from the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) is highlighting that they have changed the process for when an employee ends or adds a new employment to their registration, so that where employment records have changed in the last seven days, employers who have requested notifications will now receive one email each Friday advising them to sign into MySSSC to view the changes. All countersignatories can view employment changes made in the last 21 days in the employers' section of MySSSC by selecting the 'recent employment changes' tile. Other notification emails sent to employers relating to applications, qualifications and late annual declarations will continue as normal.



### [Fitness to Practise snapshot](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has published the second Fitness to Practise Snapshot Report, providing key insights into the fitness to practise process and investigations over the past year. The findings reportedly include that on average 1.03% of registered workers are investigated each year and in 2024/25 there were 139 decisions made to remove people from the Register.

#### **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.

It should also be noted that the Care Inspectorate has no liability in respect of the content of external websites which may be signposted on this site.