

[Care Experience](#)[Child Protection](#)[Early Learning and
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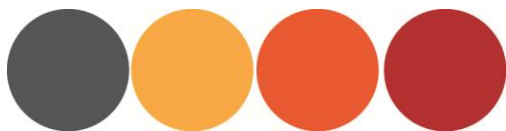
Care Experience

[Written evidence on Children \(Care, Care Experience and Services Planning\) \(Scotland\) Bill](#)

Written submissions on proposed legislation in relation to the children's care system have been published. The Education, Children and Young People Committee launched a call for evidence as part of its Stage 1 scrutiny of the Children (Care, Care Experience and Services Planning) (Scotland) Bill. The Bill would introduce a wide range of provisions, including: giving people who left care before their 16th birthday the right to apply for aftercare; a requirement on fostering services to register as charities; ministerial powers to limit profits in children's residential care; new responsibility for integration joint boards in relation to children's services planning. A total of 79 responses were submitted by organisations and academics, while there are [30 responses](#) from individuals with care experience or those providing support.

[Briefing on Children \(Care, Care Experience and Services Planning\) \(Scotland\) Bill](#)

A briefing on the Children (Care, Care Experience and Services Planning) (Scotland) Bill has been published by the Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe). The SPICe Briefing provides background on development of the proposed reforms, notably via The Promise, and explains each of the Bill's provisions.



[Article reflects on first year of Children \(Care and Justice\) \(Scotland\) Act 2024](#)

An article reflecting on the first year of the Children (Care and Justice) (Scotland) Act 2024 and the changes the legislation is designed to bring about. The article is written by Debbie Nolan, Practice Development Advisor at the Children and Young People's Centre for Justice (CYCJ), and Kate Mackinnon, Policy Associate at CELCIS. Links to an information sheet and briefing paper on the Act are also provided.

[Latest statistics on educational outcomes for looked after children](#)

The Scottish Government has published information on attendance and achievement of Curriculum for Excellence levels for looked after children in Scotland. Key findings include: The attendance rate for pupils who were looked after has decreased in the last year while the attendance rate for all pupils has increased slightly over the same period; achievement levels across all subjects were lower for pupils looked after during the year compared to all pupils at all stages; the gap between looked after pupils and all pupils has decreased in 2023/24 compared to 2022/23 for all subjects at P7 and S3 stages; the proportion of looked after leavers who left school in S4 or earlier has declined substantially since 2009/10, but increased slightly in each of the last two years.

Child Protection

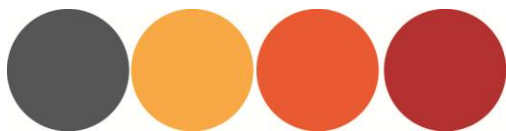
[Review of findings from joint inspection programme 2021 - 2025](#)

An overview of joint inspections for services for children and young people at risk of harm has found overall improvements since 2021. The review of findings from the joint inspection programme 2021-2025 notes a high degree of relationship based and trauma informed practice across services and observed staff in a wide range of universal services working well together. Inspectors also noted strengths in multi-agency responses to early indications of concern and the ways in which children and young people were involved in decision making.

Inspectors saw variability in some areas of practice, including: multi-agency responses to situations of risk in relation to cumulative harm, poverty, deprivation, domestic abuse and mental health; responses to risks for older young people in relation to community based harms were, broadly speaking, not consistently effective; the wider collation of children's views to help shape services was not taking place systematically in every partnership area; the extent to which partnerships were able to measure and demonstrate the difference they were making also varied.

[Edinburgh to join pilot scheme providing faster support and decisions for child exploitation victims](#)

Edinburgh is among a number of new areas to join a pilot to provide faster support and decision making for child victims of exploitation and human trafficking. The pilot, launched in June 2021, transfers responsibility for National Referral Mechanism decisions for child victims from the Home Office to specially trained local



safeguarding teams. The scheme has lowered decision wait times for victims to 101 days, compared to 471 days in non-pilot areas. Edinburgh will be Scotland's second pilot site, joining Glasgow on the scheme.

[Bairns Hoose opens in Aberdeenshire](#)

The Aberdeenshire Bairns Hoose has opened, providing a new space to support children and reduce the trauma they experience as they navigate the child protection and justice systems. The Bairns Hoose has been developed in partnership with Aberdeenshire Council Children's Services, Children First, Police Scotland, NHS Grampian, the Scottish Children's Reporter's Administration, The Crown Office Procurator Fiscal Service, Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service and Edinburgh University

[Social Work Scotland position paper on mandatory reporting of child abuse](#)

A position paper to inform national discussion about mandatory reporting of child abuse has been published by Social Work Scotland. Rather than a response to a specific consultation or review, the paper consolidates reflection and discussion among social work leaders about the opportunities and challenges inherent to the introduction of a mandatory reporting approach. The reflections are drawn from engagement with members and included a bespoke event in May 2025.

[UK suspends new refugee family reunion applications](#)

The UK Government is to temporarily suspend new applications under the refugee family reunion route that allows those granted asylum in the UK to bring their family with "no conditions", the BBC reports. Home Secretary Yvette Cooper said the move means refugees face the same restrictions as other migrants hoping to bring family to join them, bringing the UK into line with neighbouring nations.

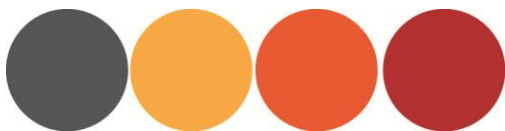
Early Learning and Childcare

[Joint statement on Quality improvement framework for ELC sectors](#)

The Care Inspectorate and HM Inspectors of Education have issued a joint statement on the Quality improvement framework for early learning and childcare sectors. The framework was made available in January 2025 to give settings an opportunity to familiarise themselves with the content before it is used for inspection, with 75 pilot visits/inspections taking place across 28 local authorities. The final framework will be published online on 18 September and it will be used for inspections from 22 September. The statement provides a timeline and overview of how both organisations will use the framework for inspection activity.

[Revised operating guidance on Funding Follows the Child and National Standard](#)

The Scottish Government has published operating guidance for early learning and childcare (ELC) providers on Funding Follows the Child and the National Standard. The revised guidance sets out how the Funding Follows the Child approach



operates, in particular how settings meet the National Standard criteria and the role of local authorities in delivering the approach. The guidance also reflects the forthcoming introduction of the Quality improvement framework for ELC sectors.

[NDNA call for fairer ELC funding on the back of FOI figures](#)

The National Day Nurseries Association (NDNA) has called for fairer funding for early learning and childcare (ELC) in Scotland, after publishing the findings of a number of FOI requests on ELC funding and rates. According to NDNA Scotland, over 80% of councils are paying partner providers a smaller proportion of their ELC budgets compared with the hours of funded ELC they are delivering. A second FOI suggests a third of responding councils (33.3%) are not setting rates that increase by more than 3.75% to cover increasing Real Living Wage rates and other rising costs.

[New early years podcast launched](#)

A new podcast on the early years has been launched by the magazine and website Nursery World. The first episode of This is Early Years explores the story of the first man to qualify as a nursery nurse.

Health

[Scottish children to be offered chicken pox vaccine on the NHS](#)

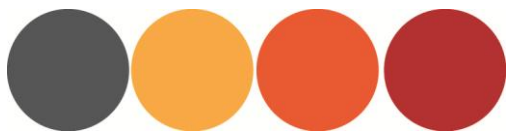
Children in Scotland will be offered the chicken pox vaccine on the NHS in tandem with its rollout across the UK in January 2026, The Times reports. The new vaccine will be added to the immunisation scheme as part of a new measles, mumps, rubella and varicella (MMRV) vaccine, as recommended by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation in 2023. Health Secretary Neil Gray said the Scottish Government is working closely with Public Health and Scotland and NHS Boards to deliver the new vaccine.

[Timetable for Scottish Covid Inquiry hearings in September and October](#)

The Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry has confirmed a provisional timetable for hearings in September and October. The Inquiry will examine the use of lockdowns and other non-pharmaceutical measures, such as social distancing, travel restrictions and self-isolation, as tools available to governments to prevent and control infection in a public health emergency. Held in a round table format with national and international experts, the hearings will not assess the approach taken by the Scottish Government but instead help inform the Inquiry's ongoing investigations into decision-making and the implementation of policies by political leaders and senior officials in Scotland.

[Report to be published by UK Covid-19 Inquiry on core UK decision-making](#)

The UK Covid-19 Inquiry will publish its second report and recommendations in November 2025, which concludes its investigation into Core UK decision-making and political governance (Module 2) during the pandemic. Following the publication of the



report, the Chair of the Inquiry will present her recommendations in a video statement on the Inquiry's YouTube channel soon after.

Mental Health

[Latest CAMHS waiting time statistics](#)

The latest quarterly Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) waiting times have been published by Public Health Scotland. According to the figures, 91.8% of people started treatment within 18 weeks of referral, an increase from 91.6% for the previous quarter and from 84.1% for the same quarter ending June 2024. The Scottish Government standard states that 90% of children and young people should start treatment within 18 weeks of referral. The [Scottish Children's Services Coalition](#) highlighted that 146 children and young people had been waiting over a year for treatment, while 271 individuals had been waiting between nine months and a year.

Workforce

[Peter Murray appointed SSSC Convener](#)

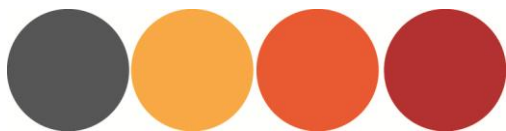
The Scottish Government has confirmed the appointment of Peter Murray as Convener of the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC). The appointment will be for 3 years, running from 1 September 2025 until 31 August 2028.

[Anti-racism Learning Resource for Social Workers](#)

A new resource to allow social workers to learn and reflect on how to embed anti-racism in practice has been published. The Anti-racism Learning Resource for Social Workers was developed on behalf of the SSSC by the Scottish Association of Social Work, in collaboration with the Social Work Anti-Racism Advisory Group. Four modules include: process of change; racism and allyship in the work environment; team culture and effective challenge; leading and embedding anti-racism.

[Recruitment open for new cohort of Care Experience Improvement Model Leaders programme](#)

Recruitment is now open for cohort seven of the Care Experience Improvement Model Leaders programme (CEIM Leaders), the SSSC has confirmed. Delivered by the SSSC in partnership with Healthcare Improvement Scotland, NHS Education for Scotland and the Care Inspectorate, CEIM Leaders is a coaching skills development programme designed to give staff the knowledge and skills to coach and lead teams to implement CEIM. It also provides a framework that supports health and social care teams to improve services based on the experiences of those who use them.



Other Health and Social Care

[Revised Good Complaints Handling training launched by SPSO](#)

Revised Good Complaints Handling training has been launched by the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman (SPSO). The self-guided course, which follows publication of the SPSO's Statement of Complaints Handling Principles, is aimed at staff handling complaints at stage 1 of the Model Complaints Handling Procedure but is designed to be useful for anyone involved in complaints handling.

[Co-design reports on the National Care Service](#)

The Scottish Government has published a series of co-design reports shaping the future National Care Service (NCS), covering [independent advocacy](#), [access and eligibility criteria](#), [ethical procurement](#), and the [Scottish Learning and Improvement Framework for Adult Social Care Support and Community Health](#). The reports, also available in easy read versions, reflect input from service users, carers, staff, and organisations, aiming to ensure consistent, high-quality care across Scotland and putting lived experience at the heart of decisions about how the NCS will work.

[Election of Green Party leadership](#)

Ross Greer and Gillian Mackay have been elected as co-leaders of the Scottish Greens. The [Green Party has also elected](#) Zack Polanski in England.

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 from throughout the UK, current research and policy development. We use a variety of sources, 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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