



[Care Experience](#)

[Child Protection](#)

[Early Learning and
Childcare](#)

[Education](#)

[Equalities](#)

[Mental Health](#)

[Other Health and Social
Care](#)

Care Experience

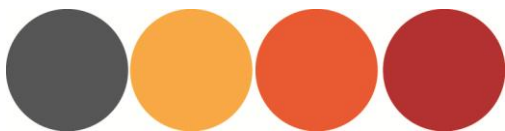
[SPICe briefing on Restraint and Seclusion \(Scotland\) Bill](#)

A briefing on the Restraint and Seclusion in Schools (Scotland) Bill has been published by the Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe). [The Bill](#) was introduced by Labour MSP Daniel Johnson and, if passed, will create statutory guidance and duties in relation to the use of restraint and seclusion in schools. The SPICe briefing explores the current policy landscape in relation to the Bill and explores each of its provisions in turn.

Child Protection

[Bairns' Hoose Pathfinder Phase Delivery Plan for 2025 to 2027](#)

A new delivery plan for the Bairns' Hoose Pathfinder Phase has been published by the Scottish Government. Covering 2025 to 2027, the Plan highlights progress towards developing a national Bairns' Hoose model since the launch of the Pathfinder phase in 2023, sets out revised overarching actions and provides a delivery plan.



[Joint inspections to focus on child sexual abuse in family environment \(England\)](#)

Joint targeted area inspections in England are to focus on child sexual abuse in the family environment, Ofsted has announced. Starting in the autumn of 2025, inspectors from partner agencies will look at how the police, children's social care, probation services and relevant health services work together to: respond to children at risk of, or who are victims of, child sexual abuse in the family environment, at the point of identification; assess, plan and make decisions in response to notifications and referrals of children at risk of, or who are victims of, child sexual abuse in the family environment; protect, support, and care for children at risk of, or who are victims of, child sexual abuse in the family environment; prevent children from becoming victims of child sexual abuse in the family environment.

Early Learning and Childcare

[Campaigners call for 'Childcare Guarantee'](#)

The expansion of funded childcare provision to cover under-twos and the introduction of a cost cap make up Scotland's Childcare Guarantee, as proposed by the campaigning group Pregnant then Screwed. Partnering with the New Economics Foundation, Oxfam Scotland and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, the group is calling for the expansion of funded childcare provision to cover from nine months old, and the introduction of a cost cap so that nobody pays more than 5% of their income.

[New study to track 30,000 babies across the UK](#)

A new UK-wide scientific study of 30,000 babies is to be led by the Centre for Longitudinal Studies at University College London. Funded by the UKRI Economic and Social Research Council, the Generation New Era study will follow the lives of the 2026 born babies during their early years and potentially beyond. It is hoped that the research will provide new evidence to answer important scientific and policy questions to inform decision making around early years and childcare services.

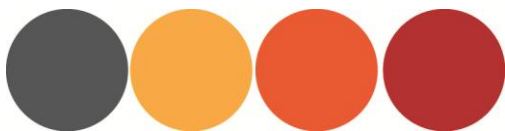
[National inquiry into early years education \(England\)](#)

The Education Select Committee has opened an inquiry into the early years workforce and quality of provision in England, Nursery World has reported. The Committee will look at workforce capacity and sustainability, access and affordability of early education and its quality and outcomes. MPs will also look at how the sector can be inclusive to families in all areas of the country, including areas that have become so-called childcare deserts and inclusive to SEND families.

Education

[Consultation launched on future of school inspections](#)

A consultation on the future of school inspections has been launched by His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education. Learners, educators, parents and carers are invited to share their views on how inspections can best support improvement in



schools and provide public confidence in the quality of education. The consultation covers a range of topics, including the inspection of nursery classes and whether nursery classes should continue to receive separate grades when included in a school inspection. The consultation does not cover the new joint inspection framework or arrangements in this regard.

[New Interim Chief Executive of Education Scotland](#)

Graeme Logan has been announced as the Interim Chief Executive of Education Scotland. Mr Logan will take up the position with immediate effect and will lead Education Scotland during the current period of reform. He was previously Director of Learning within the Scottish Government, following three decades in Scottish education working as a teacher, depute headteacher and headteacher across a number of schools and local authorities.

[Ofsted to introduce new inspection approach from November \(England\)](#)

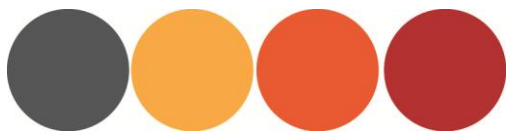
Ofsted has confirmed that it will go ahead with its renewed approach to education inspection, which aims to give parents more detailed information and increases the focus on professionals' wellbeing and workload. The new-look report cards, which includes a renewed 5-point grading scale, are designed to raise standards by highlighting the strengths and areas for improvement for schools, colleges, nurseries and childminders. The new approach will also see nurseries and childminders inspected more frequently. Ofsted will use its new inspection framework from November.

Equalities

[New briefings and resources published by human rights partnership](#)

The Health and Human Rights Partnership – a joint initiative by the ALLIANCE, Public Health Scotland and the University of Strathclyde – has published three new resources:

- [Commissioning Peer Research to Support Human Rights in Practice: Guidance for Duty Bearers](#) will support duty bearers to use existing peer research in their decision-making and in commissioning new peer research.
- [Exploring the alignment of public health and human rights legal duties in Scotland](#) is a briefing paper intended to inform implementation planning for the proposed Human Rights Bill for Scotland. The briefing has mapped areas of alignment, and potential divergence, between existing public health duties and the proposed legal duties under the Bill as these duties are currently understood.
- [Health and human rights: Rights-based decision-making in healthcare settings](#), published as part of SNAP 2 actions, is a preliminary mapping exercise highlighting real world examples of rights-based decision making in healthcare settings.



Mental Health

[Report finds limited progress in improving children's mental health support](#)

The Children & Young People's Commissioner Scotland has published new research into improvements made to mental health support for young people in Scotland, which concludes that limited progress has been made over the last five years. The joint review with SAMH and Young Scot assessed progress against a focused set of the recommendations and found little evidence of improvements, partly due to a significant lack of publicly available information. The report found that access to services varies significantly by location and demand for counselling services is outweighing provision. A key commitment for at least 1 per cent of NHS funding to go towards young people's mental health services has also not been met.

Other Health and Social Care

[New legislation from Disclosure Scotland](#)

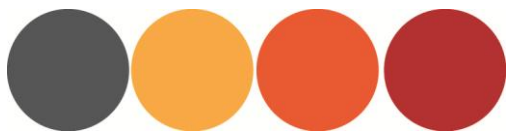
The Care Inspectorate has flagged new legislation from Disclosure Scotland, which was enacted on 1 April 2025 to make the PVG scheme a legal requirement for anyone carrying out a regulated role. Staff and volunteers carrying out a regulated role must be members of the PVG scheme, and providers employing them (paid or unpaid) must have received a PVG scheme disclosure before the staff member or volunteer commences their regulated role. The Care Inspectorate and the SSSC support implementation of the new legislation from Disclosure Scotland. Providers must ensure staff are recruited in line with legislative requirements, and to ensure that unsuitable people cannot carry out a regulated role.

[Scottish Government preparing for Exercise Pegasus](#)

Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care, Neil Gray, has written to the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee to inform members of the forthcoming Tier 1 national pandemic exercise, led by the UK Government. Exercise Pegasus is designed to test the UK's response to a future pandemic caused by a novel infectious disease. It will involve a 'live play' scenario with real-time decision-making and coordination across all UK Government departments and devolved governments. The Cabinet Secretary said the exercise is a key opportunity to reinforce Scotland's preparedness and contribute to UK-wide preparedness for future pandemics.

[New support for unpaid carers](#)

The Scottish Government has published the Carer's Assistance (Miscellaneous and Consequential Amendments, Revocation, Transitional and Saving Provisions) (Scotland) Regulations 2025. The regulations, which are subject to Parliamentary approval, will introduce Carer Support which is a new benefit combining three components: Carer Support Payment, Scottish Carer Supplement, and Carer Additional Person Payment. The Scottish Government is proposing other changes to



carer support, including extending eligibility for the Young Carer Grant and Carer Support.

[Funding for substance misuse projects supporting women and young people](#)

Funding has been announced by the Scottish Government for services supporting women affected by drugs and preventing substance use by young people. Aberlour Children's Charity will receive funding for its perinatal support and recover services and the Corra Foundation will receive support to make it easier for women affected by substance use to access services. The 'Winning Scotland's Planet Youth' initiative has also been allocated funding.

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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