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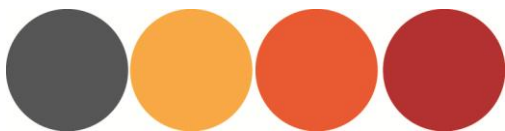
## Care Experience

[New hub for adults supporting care experienced children and young people through education](#)

A new online hub to improve support for care experienced children and young people in education has been launched by Enquire, Scotland's national advice service for additional support for learning. Navigate provides adults who live with, care for, or work with care experienced pupils with rights-based information, real-life stories, and practical tools they can use to break down barriers to learning.

[Updated information on joint inspection of services for those subject to compulsory supervision orders living at home with their parents](#)

In August 2025 we started working with our scrutiny partners to take a more focused look at the experiences and outcomes of children and young people subject to compulsory supervision orders and living at home with parents. In July we hosted a [webinar](#) to share our plans. We will complete up to four inspections with this focus by April 2026. Visit our website for information to all with an interest in the inspections.



### [Guidance on improving physical activity opportunities for care-experienced children \(England\)](#)

Guidance on improving opportunities for physical activity for care experienced children and young people has been published by the Local Government Association. The guide provides information, advice and practice examples on how councils and partners can best support care-experienced children and young people to be physically active. The report, written by Coram and Stormbreak, describes care-experienced children and young people as “a hidden group” whose needs and experiences are often overlooked in physical activity policy and provision.

### [Audit Office reports on cost and management of children’s residential care \(England\)](#)

A report on cost and management of children’s residential care in England has been published by the National Audit Office. According to the report, costs for residential care for looked-after children have almost doubled in five years, driven by rising demand, limited placements and a profit-driven market. The NAO makes a number of recommendations aimed at the Department for Education, including that it provides clarity on its vision for the market, and defines and develops its role overseeing the operation and resilience of private providers.

## **Child Protection**

### [Child Abuse Inquiry to hold hearings on Donaldson’s School for the Deaf](#)

Public hearings about Donaldson’s School for the Deaf will be held in September and October as part of the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry. The Inquiry is currently investigating the provision of residential care in establishments for children and young people with long term healthcare needs, additional support needs, and disabilities. The period examined by the investigations into abuse at these establishments extends from within living memory until the end of 2014.

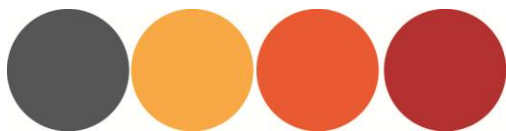
### [NSPCC proposes ‘challenging’ changes to reshape its operations](#)

The NSPCC is to enter into a period of consultation with impacted staff over “challenging decisions” around the size and shape of its workforce, as well some local initiatives. The charity said it had not been “immune” to the challenges facing the sector and has to ensure “our work continues long into the future”.

## **Disability**

### [Law Commission reports on disabled children’s social care law \(England\)](#)

Recommendations to modernise the legal framework for disabled children’s social care in England have been set out by the Law Commission. The report makes a number of proposals, including that that disabled children be kept within existing Children Act protections but with a “discrete set of rights and entitlements”. The establishment of national eligibility criteria is also recommended.



## Early Learning and Childcare

### [New Quality improvement framework for ELC sectors published](#)

We are delighted to announce we have now published the new shared Quality improvement framework for the early learning and childcare (ELC) sectors. This final version of the framework, developed jointly by the Care Inspectorate and HM Inspectors, will be used in the inspection of all early learning and childcare services, including childminders and school age childcare settings, from Monday 22 September. Contributions and feedback from settings and providers have been invaluable. Our sincere thanks go to everyone who has contributed to and supported the development of the framework.

### [Petition on hot liquids in childcare settings closed by MSPs](#)

A committee in the Scottish Parliament has agreed to close a petition calling for a maximum temperature for hot liquids served in childcare settings. The Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee closed the petition on the basis existing guidance is sufficient but agreed to write to the Scottish Government asking that a reminder be issued to services on temperatures when serving children.

### [Survey launched to inform international study on woodwork provision in early years](#)

A survey on woodwork provision in early years settings has been launched as part of an international study, Nursery World report. The Big Bang Research Project, led by the University of Bristol, is gathering and analysing data from over 30 countries on the benefits of offering woodwork to young children.

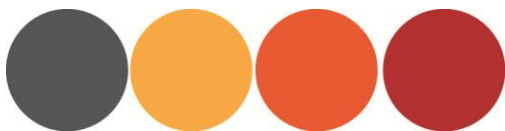
## Health

### [Research report sets out pandemic impact on children and young people](#)

Research on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on children and young people has been published by the UK public inquiry. The report sets out the findings from a child interview-led exercise with 600 children and young people aged nine to 22, with many highlighting the “empty time” of lockdown, the breakdown of routine and the “weight of responsibility” taken on. The research comes ahead of the next round of public hearings: Module 8 (Children and Young People), starting on 29 September.

### [Those eligible for flu vaccine urged to take it as winter programme gets underway](#)

Public Health Scotland has encouraged all those offered the flu vaccine to take it as this year’s winter vaccine programme gets underway. Pregnant women are strongly recommended to take up the vaccines, while everyone who works in the NHS and all frontline social care workers are also eligible. The vaccine is also being offered to all children from 2 years old to the end of secondary school, as well as children aged 6 months to 2 years old with a condition that puts them at increased risk of flu.



## Justice

### [Bill to improve experience of victims and witnesses justice system passed](#)

A Bill designed to improve the experience of victims and witnesses in the justice system has been passed by MSPs. The Victims, Witnesses, and Justice Reform (Scotland) Bill will make a series of changes to the justice system, including scrapping the not proven verdict, creating a Victims and Witnesses Commissioner, reforms relating to sexual offences and measures to embed the use of trauma-informed practice across the system.

## Mental Health

### [New resource to support young people who may be experiencing suicidal thoughts](#)

A toolkit to support young people who may be experiencing suicidal thoughts or feelings of distress has been published by Suicide Prevention Scotland. Enabling Conversations was developed by young people, for young people, in partnership with V&A Dundee. It offers a guide for young people on various topics, including: who is a “safe person” to share this with; where they can feel secure enough to open up; what small grounding strategies can help when everything feels overwhelming; how to frame what the young person wants to say.

## Workforce

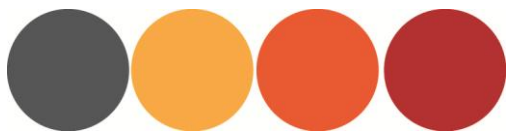
### [Accessibility of SSSC fitness to practise guidance reviewed](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has outlined its recent work on simplifying its fitness to practise guidance, including efforts to make the guidance more accessible. The SSSC recently took part in the Open University’s Witness to Harm research project, during which the accessibility of their guidance was reviewed alongside that of other professional regulators. After completing its full review, the SSSC has revised its guidance with new aims of reducing sentence length, minimising the use of legal jargon, being consistent in the use of language and only using comparisons where necessary and appropriate.

- The SSSC has highlighted a number of [free learning resources](#) to support learning needs in relation to fitness to practise conditions: [SSSC Learning Zone](#); [SSSC MyLearning](#); [SSSC Continuous Professional Learning](#); [Care Inspectorate Hub](#); [NHS Education for Scotland – Turas](#).

### [SSSC reflects on fitness to practise trends](#)

The SSSC has reflected on the rising number of fitness to practise referrals in recent years and is working to identify the reasons behind it. There was a 12% increase in concerns referred to the SSSC between 2022-23 and 2023-24, and a further 5% rise in 2024-25. Referrals in the period from 1 April 2025 suggest there will be a further 13% increase during this financial year. However, the SSSC notes that case closures are on an upward trend and cases are being concluded in less time.



### [New SSSC Council Members appointed](#)

Children's Minister Natalie Don-Innes has announced the appointment of Alison Todd and Tricia Stewart as new SSSC Council Members. The appointments run for three years from 1 September.

### [Events to share results on workforce wellbeing survey](#)

The SSSC is holding free online events to share insights from its first workforce wellbeing survey. Those attending the events will hear key findings from the survey, which over 6,500 members of the social service workforce responded to. The events will also consider how the survey findings relate to continuous professional learning and invite attendees to share ideas to inform the next wellbeing survey.

### **Other Health and Social Care**

#### [Iriss seeking new board members](#)

Iriss is seeking new board members and they are particularly interested in hearing from people with experience of using social work or social care support or being an unpaid carer. The closing date for applications is 3 October.

#### **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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