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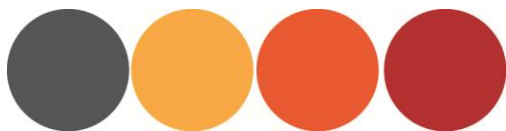
Care Experience

[Interactive dashboard for Promise Progress Framework](#)

The Promise Scotland now has an interactive dashboard on the Plan 24-30 website for the Promise Progress Framework which aims answer the question from the Promise Story of Progress of how Scotland is doing in its progress towards keeping the promise. By the end of 2025 the other two questions in the Promise Story of Progress – on how organisations are doing in their work to keep the promise and the impact felt by the care community – will also be updated.

[Data on Looked After Children for 2023-24](#)

The Scottish Government has published 'Looked after children statistics 2024: local authority benchmarking tool', which contains Looked After Children trend data up to the reporting year 2023-24 at local authority level. It provides a tool to compare and benchmark statistics across local authority areas and with national figures for a range of indicators.



Child Protection

[Data on child protection trends](#)

The Scottish Government has published 'Child protection statistics 2024: local authority benchmarking tool', which contains Child Protection trend data up to the reporting year 2023-24 at local authority level. It provides a tool to compare and benchmark statistics across local authority areas and with national figures for a range of indicators.

Covid-19

[Impact of the pandemic on children and young people](#)

The UK Covid-19 Inquiry has published an 'Every Story Matters' record, documenting the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on children and young people with personal accounts from parents, carers and professionals working with and caring for children across the UK, as well as young people aged 18-25. This record reports that "while some people found unexpected benefits and inner resilience during this extremely stressful period, many others saw their existing challenges and inequalities made significantly worse – from out-of-classroom learning barriers including a lack of access to technology, to difficult family dynamics and an abrupt severing of daily in-person contact with friends, disrupting vital routines of connection, support and belonging."

Disability

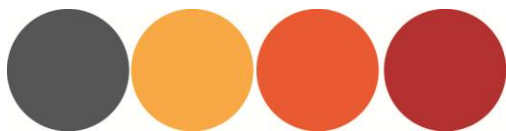
[Annual review of Scottish Commission for People with Learning Disabilities](#)

The Scottish Commission for People with Learning Disabilities (SCLD) has published its Annual Review 2024-25 which details its work over the year, including projects such as 'Include for Good', policy and rights work including a discussion paper exploring legislative, cultural and practice perspectives informing Supported Decision Making in Scotland, and their networks such as Positive Behaviour Support Community of Practice and Restraint Reduction Scotland.

Education

[Refreshed guidance on supporting transgender young people in schools](#)

The Scottish Government has published a revised version of 'Supporting Transgender Pupils In Schools Guidance for Education Authorities and Schools', non-statutory guidance which aims to help school staff in Scotland's education authority, grant-aided, and independent schools to provide transgender young people with the best possible educational experiences. The guidance has been updated in light of the Supreme Court's judgement in *For Women Scotland Limited v Scottish Ministers*, which clarified the definition of "sex" and related terms for the purposes of the Equality Act 2010, and the decision in *Hurley v Scottish Borders*



Council which clarified that primary and secondary schools are required to provide separate toilets for boys and girls. It provides practical advice, information, and signposts to age and stage appropriate resources to support schools and their staff to secure the best possible educational experiences for all their young people, including transgender young people, and the guidance may also be used by schools to support young people who identify as non-binary.

Equalities

[Attitudes survey reports girls change their behaviour to avoid sexual harassment](#)

The Girlguiding's 2025 Girls' Attitudes Survey reports 1 in 10 (10%) girls aged 11-16 have missed school to avoid sexual harassment and 86% of girls aged 11-21 have avoided going out when dark to keep themselves safe. Girlguiding are asking for local authorities and schools to publish community-specific plans to tackle misogyny, those in charge of public transport to make their services safer, and the UK Government to introduce a rating system for social media companies, based on how well they protect young people from harmful (not just illegal) content.

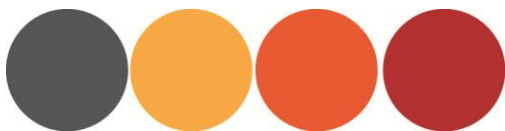
[Joint statement on prevention and health inequalities](#)

The ALLIANCE, Voluntary Health Scotland and other partners have issued a joint statement setting out what is needed to urgently tackle health inequalities in Scotland. The statement outlines the organisations' shared vision for prevention and recommendations for identifying and tackling root causes before negative outcomes occur. The statement is accompanied by good practice examples that demonstrate primary, secondary and tertiary prevention in and with communities.

Human Rights

[Raising awareness on Article 42 of the UNCRC on children's rights](#)

Together Scotland are highlighting a blog by Eurochild on Article 42 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), which requires governments to make those rights widely known to both children and adults. The blog reportedly the importance of raising awareness, as children can only claim their rights if they know them and adults can only uphold those rights if they understand them. It also shares how Eurochild is helping to bring Article 42 to life through child-friendly resources, children's participation in EU decision-making and professional training.



Justice

[Response to report on babies, children and young people's experience of domestic abuse](#) (England and Wales)

The UK Government has published their response to the report, 'Victims in their Own Right? Babies, children and young people's experience of domestic abuse', outlining their response to each recommendation and other related work.

Mental Health

[Evaluation of a charity's family wellbeing model](#)

Children First is publicising the publication of an evaluation of their Children First family wellbeing service, reportedly showing that the model has reduced repeat child mental health visits to GPs by more than 86%. Between June 2019 and September 2024, 723 families were referred to the family wellbeing service in East Renfrewshire

Other Health and Social Care

[Date announced for rollout of health and social care app](#)

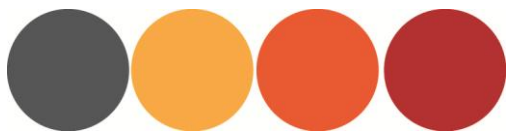
Scotland's new health and social care app, MyCare.scot, is to be launched across the country in April 2026. The app aims to transform how people use, access and interact with health and social care services. Users will be given a secure digital identity, access to personal information and later on, the ability to book appointments and check test results. Dermatology outpatients in Lanarkshire will be first to get access to the app in December, before it is progressively rolled between 2026 and 2030. MyCare will eventually be expanded to hospital-based services, before including other areas of the health and social care system, including GP practices, pharmacy, social work and social care. The Scottish Government has published a [high level summary of the national rollout plan](#).

[Concern over operation of the Public Sector Equality Duty](#)

A report has been published by the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee in the Scottish Parliament on the Operation of the Public Sector Equality Duty in Scotland. It is of concern to the Committee that while a number of public authorities may be meeting certain compliance and process requirements in relation to the PSED, there is not nearly enough focus on delivering outcomes. Members said there needs to be a significant shift in culture to focus on outcomes as well as processes, ensuring that public bodies have a robust understanding of the PSED and the Equality Act 2010.

[Report on the Proposed National Good Food Nation Plan](#)

The Scottish Parliament's Health, Social Care and Sport Committee has published their Report on the Proposed National Good Food Nation Plan. The Committee



suggests the Plan remains “quite siloed” in its approach and doesn’t have the detail on mechanisms to foster collaboration to deliver its outcomes. The report recommends that the Scottish Government set out the mechanisms it will put in place to ensure competing priorities don’t inhibit the Plan’s stated outcomes. The Committee is firmly of the view that, for a Good Food Nation to be successfully realised, the health and social care sectors will need to be involved as equal partners in the development and delivery of national and local plans, both as procurers of food for patients and residents, but also with respect to addressing wider public health concerns.

[Disability Commissioner legislation withdrawn](#)

It has been confirmed that independent MSP, Jeremy Balfour, has withdrawn his Member’s Bill which would have established a Disability Commissioner for Scotland. The Bill was withdrawn on 30 September and as it had not yet completed Stage 1, Parliament was not required to agree it being withdrawn.

Workforce

[Literature review on impact of unpaid care on gender pay gap](#)

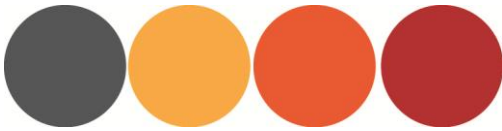
As part of its Fair Work Action Plan, the Scottish Government has published a literature review of recent evidence on unpaid care and the gender pay gap. The review explores how unpaid caring responsibilities (childcare and social care) influence determinants of the gender pay gap. The findings of the review have been shared with the Fair Work Oversight Group for awareness.

[Workforce data report for 2024](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has published their Report on 2024 Workforce Data, combining administrative data from the Care Inspectorate with data collected by the SSSC directly from local authorities to form a comprehensive picture of the paid workforce employed in the social service sector in Scotland at the end of 2024. This report provides an overview of the data at a national level and divided by sub-sector or local authority area and key findings include that the Scottish social service workforce increased to its highest level yet (214,750) in 2024, and the day care of children workforce continues to grow, reaching 42,250, driven specifically by nurseries and out of school care settings.

[End of year report on Safe Staffing Programme](#)

The Care Inspectorate and Improvement Service have published the Safe Staffing Programme End of Year Report 2024-2025. The report reflects on activities delivered by the Programme, including external information sessions, internal meetings to raise awareness and an online newsletter. The report also shares positive feedback from social care providers and Care Inspectorate staff who had participated in these events, and highlights opportunities for the Programme team to provide ongoing support.

**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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