



[Care Experience](#)

[Early Learning and  
Childcare](#)

[Education](#)

[Health](#)

[Justice](#)

[Workforce](#)

[Other Health and Social  
Care](#)

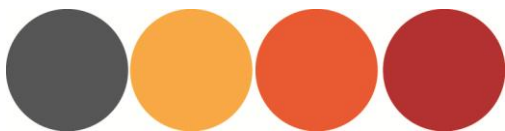
## Care Experience

### [Audit Scotland reports on progress in delivering The Promise](#)

A report on progress in delivering The Promise has been published by Audit Scotland. According to the report, plans to improve the lives of care experienced people by 2030 have “lacked detail and direction”, with a lack of clarity around roles and responsibilities. The report makes a number of recommendations for the Scottish Government and COSLA, including identification of where to target resources and which actions will be delivered over the next five years, as well as clarity on roles and responsibilities for overseeing, monitoring and reporting at a national level on local activity.

### [Ministerial statement on secure care accommodation](#)

Children and Young People Minister Natalie Don-Innes provided a statement to the Scottish Parliament on work being undertaken to deliver a “sustainable, future proofed” secure care system. Ms Don-Innes spoke about the “close monitoring and collaboration” that had taken place in recent months to restore capacity and resilience in the system, and noted that a new four-bed contingency resource at Rossie is to be operational in early December. She said the Scottish Government and COSLA are working together to develop a joint action plan, while a consultation will be published before March 2026 on the future of secure care. The Minister also confirmed future funding and commissioning models are being considered.



### [Care Inspectorate evidence on Care, Care Experience and Services Planning Bill](#)

The Care Inspectorate's Charlotte Wilson gave evidence at the Scottish Parliament as part of continued scrutiny of the Children (Care, Care Experience and Services Planning) (Scotland) Bill. Charlotte took questions from the Education, Children and Young People Committee alongside Scottish Social Services Council Chief Executive Maree Allison and Social Work Scotland Convener John Trainer. Topics covered included the Audit Scotland report on The Promise progress and proposals in the Bill relating to: aftercare, Corporate Parenting, advocacy services, care experienced definition, profit limitation in children's residential care, and foster care.

### [Report on potential benefits of mediation to support kinship families](#)

A report on the potential benefits of mediation to support kinship families has been published to mark UK Kinship Care Week (6 – 12 October). The approach uses mediation to help kinship carers and parents communicate, resolve disputes, and make shared decisions in the child's best interests. Commissioned by the UK Government-funded Foundations and carried out by Coram, the study describes a kinship care mediation service as a "viable and promising intervention", showing early signs of improving communication, reducing conflict, and helping families reach more stable and child-focused arrangements. The report recommends that further feasibility work is undertaken on the approach ahead of any future evaluation.

## **Early Learning and Childcare**

### [Statistics on use of childcare published](#)

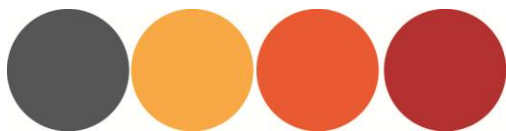
Statistics on the use of childcare have been published by the Scottish Government as part of the Scottish Household Survey 2024. According to the statistics, 49% of households that used some form of childcare used between 21 and 30 hours per week during term time. This is an increase from 23% in 2018, and is likely due to the increase in the number of available hours of funded early learning and childcare from 600 hours to 1,140 hours in 2021. A further 19% of households used more than 30 hours per week, and 19% used between 11 and 20 hours per week. Households in the 60% least deprived areas were more likely to use more than 30 hours of childcare per week than those in the 40% most deprived areas.

### [Latest SOSCN newsletter published](#)

The Scottish Out of School Care Network (SOSCN) has published its Autumn Newsletter. The newsletter covers a range of topics, including the new quality improvement framework for the early learning and childcare sectors.

### [Impact report on EYS parental mental health and support service](#)

Early Years Scotland (EYS) has published a report evaluating the impact of its Creating Caring Connections (CCC) parental mental health and support service. The service focuses on improving the mental wellbeing of parents and carers of



neurodivergent children. The evaluation was carried out by Vandana Devi, an MSc in Education, Public Policy & Equity student at the University of Glasgow.

## **Education**

### [Education Scotland updates on changes to its functions](#)

Education Scotland has published an update to set out the changes impacting on the body as part of wider education reform. The Education (Scotland) Bill was passed by the Scottish Parliament in June 2025, establishing His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education in Scotland (HMIE) and removing the inspection function from Education Scotland. Education Scotland's main focus will now be design, delivery and ongoing improvement of the curriculum.

## **Health**

### [Paper on impact of whooping cough vaccine highlighted by Public Health Scotland](#)

The findings of a paper showing the impact of vaccination on whooping cough-related hospital admissions have been highlighted by Public Health Scotland. The study, published in the medical journal Eurosurveillance, looked at the impact of vaccination on whooping cough-related hospital admissions in children between January 2013 to July 2024. It found that fully vaccinated children aged eight weeks to 17 years were 69% less likely to be hospitalised with whooping cough (pertussis).

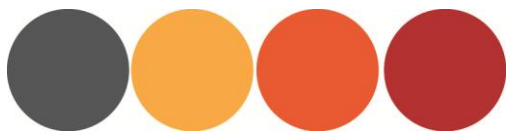
## **Justice**

### [Bill to introduce Abusive Domestic Behaviour Reviews passed by MSPs](#)

A Bill that will introduce a process for reviewing deaths which relate to abusive behaviour within relationships has been passed unanimously by MSPs. The [Criminal Justice Modernisation and Abusive Domestic Behaviour Reviews \(Scotland\) Bill](#) sets out a statutory framework for a national system of reviews into homicides or suicides connected to domestic abuse. During debate, Justice Secretary Angela Constance announced that she has commissioned Healthcare Improvement Scotland to work with stakeholders to develop national standards for domestic homicide and suicide reviews, with scoping workshops to be held next month. A standards development group (co-chaired by Professor John Devaney of the University of Edinburgh and Dr Edward Doyle, deputy medical director of NHS Lothian) is to be established.

### [CYCJ launches stakeholder study](#)

The Children and Young People's Centre for Justice (CYCJ) has launched its stakeholder survey for 2025, seeking views on its priorities for helping to build a fairer, rights-respecting future for children and young people in conflict with the law. The deadline for responding is 31 October 2025.



## Workforce

### [New Core Knowledge and Values resource launched by SSSC](#)

A new Core Knowledge and Values resource for everyone working with children and young people has been launched by the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC). Free and available on the SSSC Learning Zone, Supporting Scotland's Children: Core Knowledge and Values replaces the previous Common Core of skills, knowledge and understanding and values which was published in 2012. The resource, updated in response to a number of significant policy and practice developments in recent years, describes what is fundamentally important to children, young people and their families, regardless of the service they use or their circumstances.

### [SSSC article reflects on year following registration changes](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has published an article reflecting on the year since the introduction of a number of changes to help make registration simpler and easier to understand. Director of Regulation Hannah Coleman highlights the difference she feels the changes are making in relation to the workforce and public protection.

## Other Health and Social Care

### [Projects tackling child poverty to receive share of £1.8m funding](#)

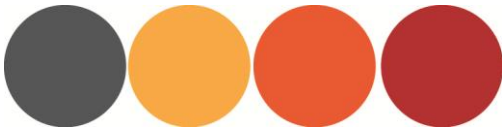
Successful applicants to the third round of the Child Poverty Practice Accelerator Fund will receive a share of £1.8m, the Scottish Government has confirmed. Projects aimed at tackling child poverty will receive grants of up to £100,000 over two years to improve local services. Applications are open until Friday 21 November.

### [Highlights from Play Scotland AGM](#)

Play Scotland has set out the highlights of its recent AGM, entitled Playful Parents, Practitioners, and Places. The event included a number of guest speakers, a welcome for the new Play Scotland CEO Mary Ramsay, and presentation of the Play Champion Awards.

### [Ofsted publishes children's social care questionnaire results \(England\)](#)

Ofsted has published the results of its most recent children's social care questionnaire. In responses, nearly all children reported feeling safe where they live. Children in children's homes were the most likely to report difficulties in getting along with other children, while children in supported accommodation were the least likely to spend time with people who matter to them and to do fun activities. Children in foster care consistently reported positive relationships with carers and other children in the household, and they were the most likely to say that they feel listened to and that foster carers ask about things that matter to them.

**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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