

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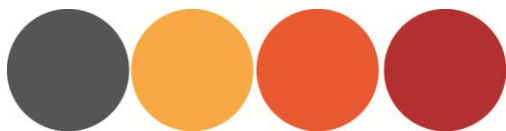
Care Experience

[Local Government Promise Annual Report](#)

COSLA has published the Local Government Promise Annual Report 2025. The report reflects progress made towards meeting the Promise, including the publication of the Promise Progress Framework, Local Perspectives Report and work by individual local authorities to shape and monitor progress through their own oversight mechanisms. It is the latest report since COSLA's Local Government and the Promise: Progress, Challenges and What's Needed to Succeed' was published in 2024, and offers an interim update on how those challenges are being priorities and addressed.

[Concern over progress of Promise housing commitments](#)

In a letter to the Scottish Parliament's Public Audit Committee, the Oversight Board for Keeping the Promise has warned progress on delivering housing commitments for care-experienced young people remains 'too slow' and 'lacking accountability', following the recent publication of Audit Scotland's Improving Care Experience report. The letter states that despite strong public commitment, government action and coordination have fallen short, with the national Homelessness Prevention Pathway for care-experienced people still paused since 2023 and no equivalent plan in place.



Early Learning and Childcare

[Results of early learning and childcare pulse surveys \(England\)](#)

The Department for Education has published the results from its childcare and early years provider pulse surveys. The reports are based on evidence from provider pulse surveys sent to a sample of providers including group-based providers; school-based providers and childminders. Respondents were asked a range of questions on the different factors affecting them, including workforce changes, rising costs, childminder agencies, the expansion of funded entitlements and the maximum number of children a setting can care for within the physical space available. [Nursery World has reported](#) on the results showing more than half of early years providers feel they are unable to meet parental demand for the expanded offer.

Education

[New focus for Education Scotland](#)

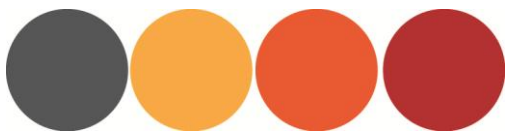
As of 1 November, Education Scotland is a curriculum focused organisation. The inspection function is being removed from Education Scotland and the process of the establishment of His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education in Scotland is underway. Education Scotland has confirmed a new sketchnote highlighting the national priorities in education as set out in the National Improvement Framework will soon be available.

[UK Education Secretary writes to MSPs on restraint and seclusion in schools](#)

The UK Government's Education Secretary, Bridget Phillipson, has written to the Scottish Parliament's Education, Children and Young People Committee outlining the UK Government's approach to restraint and seclusion in schools. The letter confirms that a 12-week public consultation held earlier in 2025 on draft guidance has now concluded. The updated guidance, replacing the current 2013 document, will include both non-statutory advice and new statutory duties requiring schools in England to record every significant use of force and report incidents to parents. The UK education secretary added the final guidance and government response will be published by the end of the autumn school term, with the new duties coming into force in April 2026. Schools will not have to send data to the Department for Education but must make it available to Ofsted during inspections.

[Possible strike action over new Ofsted inspections \(England\)](#)

Headteachers in England will be consulted on potential strike action in response to Ofsted's new approach to inspections in schools. The National Association of Head Teachers, supported by two other teachers' unions, recently lost a legal challenge to the proposals when it was thrown out by the High Court. The union claims Ofsted failed to adequately consult on its new colour-coded report card system, which is due to come into effect in England on 10 November.



[Ofsted updates guidance on inspections and visits \(England\)](#)

Meanwhile Ofsted has updated its inspections and visits guidance to reflect the renewed education inspection framework, due to come into effect on 10 November, and align processes and terminology with new or updated policies. Among updates are the reasons Ofsted may defer an inspection to include circumstances related to the well-being of senior leaders. This includes that the reason to defer cannot call into question whether a provider remains fit to practice.

Health

[Cases of MenB rise in England](#)

The UK Health Security Agency has published statistics showing 378 cases of invasive meningococcal disease were confirmed in England in 2024-25, 82.6 per cent of which were confirmed as MenB. The data shows infant and teenage vaccination rates have declined, leaving more children vulnerable to preventable disease. In England, the MenB vaccine is offered to infants at 8 weeks, 12 weeks and one year of age, as part of routine NHS vaccinations. The MenACWY vaccine protects teenagers against four strains and is usually given in school Year 9 (aged 13 to 14).

Justice

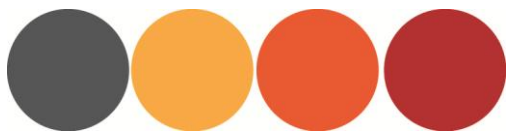
[Analysis of Children's Reporter decisions on serious offences](#)

The Scottish Children's Reporter Administration has published research conducted to better understand how further raises to the Age of Criminal Responsibility could affect how offending by children is addressed. The SCRA Research Team completed an analysis into how offences where serious physical harm has been caused by a child aged 12-15, exploring the nature of the alleged offences and the outcomes of referrals made to the Reporter. The report provides insight into what goes on inside the Children's Hearings System and describes how the Children's Reporter makes decisions about what happens with children who are charged with some of the most serious offences.

Mental Health

[Evaluation of the Under 18s Elements of Distress Brief Intervention](#)

The Scottish Government has published an Evaluation of the Under 18s Elements of Distress Brief Intervention (DBI). The evaluation finds that the approach shows promising results in supporting young people experiencing distress, though further evaluation is needed before wider national rollout. The evaluation, based on mixed methods research, interviews with young people and practitioners, and analysis of over 2,200 referrals, found that most young people reported reduced distress and improved coping by the end of support. The report concludes that DBI's core principles work well for under-18s, especially 16–17 year-olds. However, it remains



unclear whether the programme significantly reduces demand on other services like CAMHS, and further evidence would be required before expanding DBI nationally.

[Common antibiotic may reduce schizophrenia risk, study finds](#)

A commonly prescribed antibiotic may reduce the risk of some young people developing schizophrenia in adulthood, according to a study led by the University of Edinburgh. The research, published in the American Journal of Psychiatry, analysed data from more than 56,000 adolescents attending mental health services who had been prescribed antibiotics, finding that those treated with doxycycline were significantly less likely to go on to develop schizophrenia in adulthood, compared with patients treated with other antibiotics.

Workforce

[Fitness to Practise consultation launched by SSSC](#)

The SSSC has opened a consultation on proposed changes to Fitness to Practise Rules related to how it responds to concerns it receives about a social service worker. The consultation seeks views on proposed improvements on vulnerable witnesses, the maximum length of Temporary Orders, workers who are unfit to plead, workers with health issues who do not engage with SSSC investigations and on reviews of SSSC decisions. The consultation is open from 3 November 2025 to 26 January 2026.

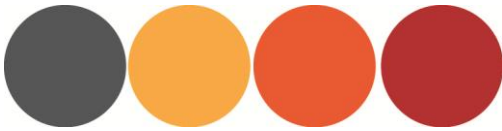
[Changes to SSSC registration to understand late applications](#)

The SSSC has made changes to the endorsement section of their registration application process, in a bid to understand more about why people apply late and what organisations are doing to manage this. Two new fields have been added to the endorsement section, inviting applicants to explain their reasons for not applying within the required three months and how their organisation has managed their late application.

Other Health and Social Care

[Independent review of social work regulation announced by UK Government \(England\)](#)

An independent review of social work regulation has been announced by the UK Government. Led by Dame Annie Hudson, the review will assess how effectively Social Work England is discharging its statutory functions and delivering against its objectives. It will also explore whether changes and improvements could be made to its functions and operations to enable more efficient and effective regulation, and improve the standards of social work practice. A call for evidence has been launched to inform the review.

**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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