



Education and Learning
Improving Lives Together
Ambition | Compassion | Integrity



NEWSLETTER

ELC Newsletter Issue 38, February 2025

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School Age Childcare (SACC) feasibility study update

In August 2024, the Scottish Government and the Care Inspectorate started work on a joint six-month feasibility study to consider the future scrutiny of SACC services. The aim of the study was to carry out a review of current regulation, better understand the challenges faced by the SACC sector, and look at whether regulatory change might support services to operate more sustainably. The study also looked at whether it might be possible to bring a wider range of services into the scope of SACC. The study finished at the beginning of February 2025.

Over the last six months the feasibility study team has reviewed existing legislation and guidance, and has engaged with a range of key stakeholders in Scotland and in the rest of the UK. The team has also held focus group sessions with SACC providers (small and large, rural and urban) and with local authorities. Some of the considerations under discussion included: the opportunities and challenges of changing the definition of SACC, qualification requirements and how to create a more diverse workforce, and the challenges around finding appropriate community spaces for SACC services.

Now that the study has finished, they are drawing together all of the information which has been gathered and will be developing a range of options for Ministers to consider. We expect to provide a further update in April/May 2025 about progress and next steps.

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Care Inspectorate and Education Scotland engagement sessions

The Care Inspectorate and Education Scotland HM Inspectors would like to invite practitioners to attend engagement sessions on the new [Quality Improvement Framework for the early learning and childcare sectors](#).

These in-person sessions will take place in Glasgow, Edinburgh and Inverness.

Sessions will provide you with the opportunity to:

- **see** a live demonstration and engage directly with the digital version of the framework
- **hear** about the pilot phase
- **explore** our current methodologies and share your views on what works well on inspection and what you would like to see changed
- **connect** directly with inspectors from the Care Inspectorate and Education Scotland to explore aspects of the framework
- **ask** questions you might have about the framework, its application, or how it will support the sector's goals for improvement



Plans for more online sessions on Wednesday 19 March in the morning and evening, and further details will be available shortly.

They are also looking at holding more evening and weekend in-person and online sessions. As soon as details are finalised, we will advertise these sessions across all our channels.

Both agencies will continue to use our existing frameworks and approaches for inspection while the new approaches are developed, ahead of implementation in September 2025. The 18-month gap between Education Scotland and Care Inspectorate inspections will also remain in place.

Quality improvement framework



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Growing Up Healthy in Tayside

The [Growing Up Healthy in Tayside Winter Newsletter](#) is now available, it reflects on activity that has taking place across Tayside (between November and February) that supports **children, young people & their families to eat & drink well and be active** by realising the 5 key ambitions of 'Helping Taysides Children and Young People to Feel Great and Ready to Learn' our local Child Healthy Weight Strategy.

Within this edition you will find updates from **Best Foot Forward (BFF) Programme in P&K Active Schools Coordinator, Cat Fairlie** and an update from the **Whole Family Wellbeing (WFW) & Family Advice & Community Connections Service**.

You will also find valuable resources from colleagues in NHS Tayside Nutrition & Dietetics Community Food & Health Team and links to their Community Cookit Community Cooking Skills Padlet and a Food & Health Padlet for Schools & Early Years Settings created by colleagues in Dundee City Council and NHS Tayside Public Health & Nutrition & Dietetics.

Growing Up Healthy in Tayside
Winter Newsletter



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Child Protection Resource

Keeping children
safe in Scotland –
Guides for younger
children, young
people and parents
and carers

 Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba



Scottish Government launched a new information resource for children, young people and families who want to learn more about the child protection process in Scotland.

[Read more](#)



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CyberScotland Week



CyberScotland Week invites individuals, organisations and communities across Scotland to raise awareness of cyber security and strengthen our collective Cyber Resilience. Click here for more information - [CyberScotland Week - Cyber Scotland](#).

This year's theme is '**Can't hack it!?**' which aims to highlight everyday actions everyone can take to improve their cyber resilience.

[DigiLearnScot](#) have put together a calendar of events taking place this week, including professional learning sessions and live lessons & code alongs - [#CyberScotlandWeek 2025 – DigiLearn](#)

For the Early Years we thoroughly recommend the read along of The Bongles and the Crafty Crows.

[Visit Digilearnpkc for resources](#)



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National Living Wage and National Minimum Wage – new rates from 1st April 2025

The government has announced increased rates of the National Living Wage (NLW) and National Minimum Wage (NMW) which will come into force from 1 April 2025.

The rates which will apply are as follows:

- NLW From 1 April 2025 £12.21 for aged over 21
- For ages 18-20 £10.00
- 16-17 £7.55
- Apprentices £7.55

The apprenticeship rate applies to apprentices under 19 or 19 and over in the first year of apprenticeship.

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National Insurance contributions and Employment Allowance – new rates from 1st April 2025

Employees and NICs from 6 April 2024 the main rate of Class 1 employee NICs is 8%. The employer rate is 13.8%.

The government announced that it will increase the employer rate from 13.8% to 15% from 6 April 2025.

The Secondary Threshold is the point at which employers become liable to pay NICs on an individual employee's earnings and is currently set at £9,100 a year.

The government will reduce the Secondary Threshold to £5,000 a year from 6 April 2025 until 6 April 2028, and then increase it by Consumer Price Index (CPI) thereafter.

The **Employment Allowance** currently allows businesses with employer NICs bills of £100,000 or less in the previous tax year to deduct £5,000 from their employer NICs bill.

Find out how to claim this here: [Employment Allowance: What you'll get - GOV.UK](#)

From 6 April 2025 the government will increase the Employment Allowance from £5,000 to £10,500, and remove the £100,000 threshold for eligibility, expanding this to all eligible employers with employer NIC bills.

So, for those of you who are bigger charities or businesses who currently pay more than £100,000 in your NIC bill, or if the increase in NI brings this in next April for you, it is important to know that you can claim £10,500 of this back each year. This applies only to a single payroll – there is more guidance here if you have more than one payroll.

<https://www.gov.uk/claim-employment-allowance/eligibility>

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Balbeggie Nursery

Balbeggie Nursery received a full inspection by The Care Inspectorate On the 9th and 10th December 2024. This was an unannounced, full model inspection, looking at four key areas:

- *How good is our care, play and learning?*
- *How good is our setting?*
- *How good is our leadership?*
- *How good is our staff team?*

The inspector gathered evidence through observations, discussion with staff, parents and children and review of documentation. Balbeggie Nursery was rated as **very good** in all of the key areas and the staff

team were delighted with this result. The inspection report shared some key messages about our services:

- Children were well nurtured and cared for. Families were supported to be involved across different aspects of their child's care and support which enhanced positive attachments.
- Staff had successfully created a positive atmosphere, where children and families felt comfortable and safe. Staff were attuned to children's needs and respected their rights.
- Staff had a good understanding of child development, relevant theory and practice. The service were developing their planning approaches to enable children to fully lead their own learning.
- The management team were well organised and had very good quality assurance systems which support self-evaluation.
- The deployment of the staff team enabled them to be fully engaged and present in children's care, play and learning. Most parents knew staff well and were able to share the positive impact they had had on their children's experience and outcomes.
-

Staff at Balbeggie Nursery work extremely hard to create a positive ethos where children and families are supported and thriving, and we were pleased that this was recognised throughout the report.

Staff continue to reflect on the nursery provision at Balbeggie as part of ongoing self-evaluation and we know we will go from strength to strength.

We have been inundated with positive messages and congratulations from the local and wider community, and we thank everyone who has supported our success!

[Read full report](#)

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[New quality improvement plan](#)

The **Quality Improvement Plan for 2025-26** is now available. This plan demonstrates the Care Inspectorates whole systems commitment, to working with our assurance and improvement colleagues and likeminded agencies, to provide quality improvement in the right places at the right time. There is continued focus on targeted quality improvement programmes and supporting clusters of services to make the improvements needed. They will continue to build improvement capacity and capability across the lifespan.



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Annual returns deadline approaching

Reminder that you must submit your annual return to Care Inspectorate no later than Sunday 2 March 2025.

All childminders must complete this electronically on our eForms system. **You can access this here.** Remember - even if your service is inactive, you must submit an annual return.

The Care Inspectorate have extended their contact centre opening hours for **all services between 16:00-19:00** on the below days to help services with queries about annual returns. There will be limited staff available, so they ask for your patience while we answer your calls.

- Thursday 20 February
- Thursday 27 February

The contact centre will still be open Monday to Friday 09:00-16:00. However, please remember they will be extremely busy as they approach the deadline.

Call 0345 600 9527 or **visit their website** for more information.



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Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC)

Did you know that in June 2024 the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) introduced new Continuous Professional Learning (CPL) requirements for the Social Services workforce, including those who work in ELC settings? This includes undertaking CPL on an annual basis on Adult Support and Protection. Attending this basic awareness session gives attendees an excellent grounding in ASP to enable them to meet this requirement and put the principles of ASP into practice.

The next session which is being delivered as part of the ELC Workforce Network on Wednesday 19 March.

[Sign up now](#)



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Training Offer 2025

Training Offer 2025

remember to visit www.ecslearninghub.org.uk for more listings

[See all](#)

+ Add event



Solihull Approach -
Foundation Training
Tue, 4 Mar, 14:30



Loose Parts Play
Tue, 11 Mar, 16:00



Loose Parts Play
Tue, 11 Mar, 18:30



Outdoor Play and Learning at
Westbank ELC
Fri, 21 Mar, 09:30



Exploring GIRFEC and UNCRC
Thu, 27 Mar, 18:30



Solihull Approach -
Foundation Training
Mon, 7 Apr, 09:30



TayMaths Spotlight series -
Engaging Families in
Tue, 29 Apr, 16:00



TayMaths Spotlight series -
Planning ahead for Numeracy
Tue, 20 May, 16:00



Child Protection Officer
Training
Mon, 9 Jun, 09:30

[Visit the Education & Learning Hub](#)



The Promise Scotland, Promise Learning Collaborative

Places are now live for The Promise Scotland's in person Learning Collaborative events on Eventbrite - [The Promise Scotland Events - 8 Upcoming Activities and Tickets | Eventbrite](#). This will be the second in a series of events which will take place around the country.

These are free events open to all who wish to network and share learning around implementing The Promise. Although free, places are funded and therefore limited. This should be considered this when you book a place. Please ensure you will be able to attend.

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Central Professional Learning Offer In-Service Day

On the February In-service day, we offered a wide range of workshops and welcomed teachers, practitioners and support staff from our local authority and funded providers to take part in training to support children and families. A wide range of professionals delivered workshops which included Solihull Approach Foundation, Adult Support and Protection Basic Awareness, Introduction to Story Safari, Closing the Gender Attainment Gap, Reflective Practice Mental Health, Nurturing Relationships, Numeracy schools and Speech, Language and Communication.

Some responses from evaluations highlighted the following:

Networking group discussions.

Learning about a new scheme to help language development with young children and their parents.

Practical opportunities.

Good resources/websites to get more information from. Good to talk with other people in the same area.

Learning about how we all have a role to play in protecting adults.

Thank you to everyone who joined and participated in rich discussions to learn from each other, share good practice and hear key messages.



Exciting News for residents in Hillyland, Perth!



Refurbishment of Hillyland Park Perth

Our greenspace team is planning to enhance the facilities at Hillyland Park, Perth, and we want your input!

This is your chance to share what you'd love to see in the park. To get inspired, check out the video below showcasing some of our recently transformed parks.

[Take part in the consultation](#)



Easter Holiday Kids Clubs and WAC



Are you looking for childcare over the Easter Holidays 2025.

The following Kids Clubs and WAC are open from 8am -6pm and you will find the holidays programmes on the website below.

Oakbank; Blair; Milnathort; Letham; Inchview; Pitlochry; St Dominic's; Luncarty.

[Book now](#)



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Big Ears, Little Ears



Big Ears, Little Ears

Join us for this short, relaxed concert for babies, toddlers and their grown-ups.

[click image to book](#)

The Scottish Chamber Orchestra presents [Big Ears, Little Ears](#) which is an enchanting, multi sensory adventure for the under fives at the Perth Theatre and Concert Hall Friday 25 April.

[Visit to book](#)



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Supporting your Child with Anxiety & Worries



SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD WITH ANXIETY & WORRIES

Join our 4-week online programme aimed at building your understanding of anxiety and the traps that people might fall into as well as how to overcome anxiety and worries with helpful strategies. Please note, this course is designed for children and young people who are experiencing mild to moderate anxiety. It is also not specific to neurodivergent children & young people, however our new Understanding & Supporting Your Child course can offer more information about this.

New Dates:

Mondays

3rd, 10th, 17th & 24th March

12:00pm - 1:00pm

Scan the QR Code to Book



[click image to book](#)



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Sing & Dance



Sing and Dance with *One Button Benny* author, Alan Windram

Saturday 8 March

11am - 12pm | Child £6, Adult Free
AK Bell Library



CULTURE
PERTH & KINROSS

[Book now](#)

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Early Learning and Childcare

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