Alcohol/Drugs

Minimum alcohol pricing could save hundreds of lives, research suggests

Raising the minimum price on a unit of alcohol to between 40-50 pence could save hundreds of lives, according to researchers at the University of Sheffield. The study notes current government policy in England, introduced in May, which bans low cost ‘deals’ on alcohol and suggests that this saves 14 lives and 500 hospital admissions per year. However, enforcing a 45 pence unit price could save 624 lives and 23,700 hospital admissions, the researchers argue. Minimum pricing on alcohol in Scotland is currently on hold because of legal challenges from drinks manufacturers.

Care Homes/Care at home

New ‘gold standard’ care home opens in Glasgow

A new care home providing accommodation for 120 people, and day facilities for an additional 30 others in the adjoining day care centre, has opened in Glasgow reports the Evening Times. Glasgow City Council is hoping to transform care homes within the city by opening five new care homes costing £90m. Hawthorn House in Possilpark, Glasgow, has a cinema, hairdressing salon, treatment rooms and enclosed, dementia friendly gardens. Glasgow City Council leader Gordon Matheson described the facility as “a gold standard for care homes and day care centres that will not be beaten for a long time to come”.

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Care Homes/Care at home

Nursing Homes Medical Practice in Glasgow due to close

The Nursing Homes Medical Practice (NHMP) in Glasgow is due to be closed, The Herald reports. The NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde service is dedicated to the needs of nursing home residents and was the first of its kind in the UK. One of the GPs due to be redeployed following the decision has raised concerns about what will happen to his patients.

Joseph Rowntree Foundation calls for care home staff to be paid Living Wage

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation has called for proposals to pay care home staff the Living Wage by reducing the overall costs of running care homes. The proposed savings would be used to introduce the Living Wage for care workers. The Joseph Rowntree Foundation has been reviewing areas for improving the conditions for low paid care workers during its research.

Dementia

Study links dementia to women who experience ‘midlife neuroticism’ and stress

According to a recent study carried out at the University of Gothenburg, women aged 38-54 are more likely to develop late-life dementia if they experience ‘midlife neuroticism’ or stress. The study, originally conducted in 1968, published in the online journal Neurology, used a sample of 800 women aged 38-54 some of whom experienced stress for 1 month or more. Other factors included within the study were nervousness, sleep disturbances, fearfulness, irritability and tension.

Scotland’s Dementia Award winners announced

The winners of Scotland’s Dementia Awards 2014 have been announced following a ceremony which took place at the Marriott Hotel in Glasgow. Dumbarton Dementia Café won the award for ‘Best Dementia Friendly Community Initiative’. ‘Best Innovation in Continuing Care’ was awarded to Crossreach, Inverness. Cameron House Gaelic Initiative and NHS Ayrshire and Arran won ‘Best Acute Care Initiative’ for Pocket Ideas…for a moment in time.

Health and social care

Scottish Law Commission publishes report to address deprivation of liberty issue

The Scottish Law Commission has published a Report on Adults with Incapacity in light of a recent court ruling on deprivation of liberty. The report includes an amendment to the Adults with Incapacity (Scotland) Act 2000 ‘to include a legal process to authorise measures preventing an adult from going out of a hospital and a more detailed legal process for the scrutiny of significant restriction of liberty of an adult in a care home or other placement in the community’. The Commission also recommends that individuals have a right to apply to the sheriff court for release of
an adult who may lack capacity from unlawful detention in certain care settings. The report comes after the European Court of Human Rights found in favour of a woman who it had been argued was unlawfully deprived of liberty when detained informally in a hospital for psychiatric treatment. In March 2014 the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom set out a specific test for what constitutes a deprivation of liberty.

According to information obtained from Freedom of Information requests by Community Care, the deprivation of liberty court ruling has had a “massive impact” on the adult social care system in England and Wales.

Two million people in Scotland offered the flu vaccination this winter

Two million people in Scotland are being offered the flu vaccination to help protect against flu this winter, reports The Scotsman. The flu vaccine is available to pregnant woman, people with underlying health issues and people over 65. In addition, the vaccination has also been extended this year to include 2-11 year olds who will be given a nasal spray.

Scottish Care publishes inspection guide on self-directed support for providers

Scottish Care’s ‘People as Partners’ project has announced the publication of two new guides on self-directed support services for providers. The first guide focuses on the role of inspection, regulation and registration in self-directed support services. The second guide explores the issue of risk enablement and adult protection.

HIS consultation opened on Strategic Delivery Plan for Medicines

Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS) is consulting on its 2015-18 Strategic Delivery Plan for Medicines. HIS has published a draft delivery plan with objectives including empowering people to manage their own care and shape services, reliable spread and supported implementation of best practice, and assessing the quality and safety of healthcare by March 2018. The consultation period closes on 21 November.

NICE to produce more than 70 new public health equality standards (England)

Following requests from the Department of Health, the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) is to produce more than 70 new public health equality standards. The new standards, aimed at high priority areas for improvement, include healthcare associated infections, oral health, skin cancer, infectious diseases like hepatitis C and flu, sexual health, and domestic violence.

Learning disabilities

People with learning disabilities at risk due to vitamin D deficiency, study finds

A new study suggests people with learning disabilities are at risk of developing osteoporosis and fractures which could be a direct result of a deficiency in vitamin D, Learning Disability Today reports. The study has found that those living in in institutions are less likely to have exposure to sunlight, causing a deficiency in vitamin D which can have a detrimental effect on their health. Researchers from
Oxford University’s Department of Psychiatry and Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust, funded by the Baily Thomas Charitable Fund, also found that it is common for people with learning disabilities to have a high rate of osteoporosis and fractures. Valeria Frighi, MD, who led the study, said treatment for vitamin D deficiency should be standard care for people with learning disabilities.

**Mental Health**

**ISD publishes reports on prescribing medicines in mental health**

The Information Services Division in Scotland has published its latest report on prescribing medicines in mental health. Statistics show that between 2004/5 to 2013/14 the dispensing of antipsychotics, antidepressants, drugs for ADHD and dementia has been steadily increasing over the last decade. The statistics also show that mental health drug dispensing is consistently higher for females and peaks for those in middle age, whereas drugs for ADHD are more likely to be prescribed to adolescent males.

**Mental Welfare Commission publishes reports on Mental Health Act**

The Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland has published two reports ‘Experience of Named Persons’ and ‘Updated Survey of Recorded Matters’. The reports have identified a lack of ‘clarity’ and understanding amongst service users, families and carers about areas of the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003 which directly affect them.

**Health and Sport Committee takes evidence on Mental Health (Scotland) Bill**

The Scottish Parliament's Health and Sport Committee has begun taking oral evidence on the Mental Health (Scotland) Bill. The Bill proposes a number of amendments to the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003 designed to help people with mental health issues access treatment quickly and easily. Responding to suggested concerns around a lack of consistency in the availability of independent advocacy across Scotland, the Mental Welfare Commission’s Colin McKay suggested that there was a need for “a better accountability mechanism, whether that operates through the commission, the Care Inspectorate or some other means, to ensure that when people want advocacy they can get it, whatever stage they are at in the process—given the evidence that that is not universally the case at the moment”.

**Briefing on Mental Health (Scotland) Bill**

A briefing on the Mental Health (Scotland) Bill has been published by the Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe). The briefing looks at mental health legislation before the introduction of the Bill in the Scottish Parliament on 19 June 2014 and outlines proposals in the Bill.
Older people

International Older Persons Day - 1 October

The United Nations is raising awareness of the global cause of an ageing population on 1 October by commemorating International Older Persons Day. The theme of this year’s commemoration is ‘Leaving no-one behind: Promoting a society for all’. The UN figures suggest that the global population over 60 years old will reach 1.4 billion by 2030.

Other

Homelessness statistics fall in Scotland

A National Statistics publication for Scotland has shown a fall in the number of applications for homelessness assistance between April - June 2014. Figures show that Scottish local authorities received around 9,000 applications for homelessness assistance between April-June 2014, which was 7% lower compared with figures for 2013 in the same period. In addition, the number assessed as homeless, or likely to become homeless within 2 months, also fell by 3% to around 7,500. At 30 June 2014, the number of people in temporary accommodation was 10,000, 2% lower than 2013 figures.

Updated guidance for local authorities on new housing support duty

The Scottish Government has published updated guidance for local authorities relating to the Housing Support Duty to Homeless Households. The duty, which came into force on 1 June 2013, requires local authorities to conduct a housing support assessment for applicants who are unintentionally homeless or threatened with homelessness. The guidance includes the following updated statement in relation to registration: “Where providers of Housing Support Services are already registered with the Care Inspectorate, it may be appropriate to include housing support to homeless households within an existing registration, through a variation or notification to the Care Inspectorate. However where a separate service is provided, with different aims and objectives, staff team with different skills, different policies and procedures, a separate registration may be required.”

Age Scotland publishes Power of Attorney guide

A new resource on Power of Attorney entitled ‘Help with making decisions about your health, welfare and/or finances’ has been published by Age Scotland. The guide has been produced to give advice where individuals are unable to look after their own affairs due to mental or physical incapacity. An information pack is also available to download on the Age Scotland website for further information and advice.

SSSC publishes workforce data report

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has published its sixth workforce data report for 2013. The report provides statistical data on geographical trends, the
proportion of gender ratios, the median age of workers in the sector, hours worked and contract types of the sector’s workforce. The report is compiled using annual returns collected by the Care Inspectorate and the annual census of local authority social work staff.

**Summary of views on Community Empowerment Bill published**

A summary of written submissions on the Local Government and Regeneration Committee Community Empowerment (Scotland) Bill has been published by the Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe). The summary paper provides key issues raised from the submissions, for example, the effectiveness of the Bill in empowering local communities, the consequences of public sector funding, and the potential reorganisation of local authorities to implement the changes.

**Free Foundations course on self-directed support launched**

A free Scottish Government-funded online course on self-directed support has been developed by the Open University in Scotland (OuIS) to help people who receive or direct their own support, family carers, practitioners working in local authorities, health services or the voluntary sector and policy makers. The Foundations course, highlighted in The Scotsman, is divided into six sections with topics including risk, implications for the workforce and outcomes and what the future might hold.

**Scottish Labour to give Care Inspectorate responsibility over inspecting carers services**

The Scottish Labour Party has pledged to give the Care Inspectorate responsibility over inspecting carers services as part of a range of commitments in relation to carers. The pledge came as the party announced the creation of the ‘Carer’s Labour Network’ with Carers Champion Clare Lally. The launch of the network, which also includes a commitment to require local authorities to do yearly reports on carers support and services, is part of a wider programme which will be included within the Scottish Labour Carers Manifesto for the 2016 Scottish Parliament elections.

**Audit Scotland appoints new chair**

Audit Scotland has announced the appointment of a new chair, John Maclean, who has replaced former chair, Ronnie Cleland. John Maclean is the longest serving independent board member. The new chair has been appointed from 1 October.

**Care Inspectorate telephone number changed**

On 1 October the Care Inspectorate changed its 0845 numbers to 0345. The number change only affects our 0845 numbers and only the prefix is affected, so it’s actually just a swap from 08 to 03. The rest of the number stays the same.

**NES launches survey on AAC online course for workers**

NHS Education for Scotland (NES) has launched a survey on Informing and Profiling AAC Knowledge and Skills (IPAACKS), an online resource for all workers in health, education, social care, and the voluntary and independent sectors, who provide any
kind of service for people who use AAC (Augmentative and Alternative Communication). The results of the survey will inform the next edition of IPAACKS. The opportunity to contribute will be open until **Friday 14 November 2014**.

**SSSC to consult on success and future of registration**

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) is to run a consultation on how well registration has fulfilled its purpose and how to ensure that the process is fit for the future. The SSSC plans to hold events during November and December, as well as carrying out surveys. You can also email adam.milne@sssc.uk.com or phone 01382 207101 now with your views.

**SSSC issues reminder on support worker registration**

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has issued a reminder that all support workers must be registered by 30 September 2015. The deadline date for support workers to apply for registration was 30 September 2014. The SSSC will still accept applications for registration and will process them in order of date received.

**Six out of ten UK social workers would not recommend their job, survey suggests**

Community Care has reported that 59% of social workers in the UK would not recommend their employer to other social workers. The study found that out of 2,100 social workers surveyed, 8% were looking to leave the profession with 23% of those stating their job was too stressful or was affecting their health, 20% also cited high caseloads as a source of stress. Of those not intending to leave the profession 94% stated there is more day to day pressure on social workers than ever before. **Further findings from the research** carried out by Community Care and TMP showed that 37% reported bad experiences when applying for social work jobs including jargon-filled job adverts, and an overwhelming application process which can take months. The [research](#) also included details of what social workers are looking for when applying for new jobs.

**Disclaimer**

This weekly bulletin is produced as an update on the key issues concerning adults and health.

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
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