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Alzheimer's/Dementia

[LGBTQ+ Inclusivity in Ageing and Dementia](#)

The Dementia Services Development Centre, based at the University of Stirling, has launched a new training course to ensure individuals in the LGBTQ+ community are receiving an appropriate level of care. The course, titled LGBTQ+ Inclusivity in Ageing and Dementia, aims to provide frontline workers with the skills they need to allow individuals to age in a way that is authentic to them.

Care Homes/Care at Home

[Test of change – integrated inspection of care at home services](#)

The Care Inspectorate has confirmed that it will undertake an integrated inspection of care at home services in one selected health and social care partnership area in 2025-26. This work involves combining and integrating strategic and regulatory approaches to inspection and will also incorporate evidence collected and findings of planned regulatory inspections of relevant care at home services. As part of the test of change all inspected regulated care at home services across Scotland will be asked to contribute by responding to a set of standard questions relating to commissioning arrangements.



[Scottish Care members report decrease in care home placements](#)

Scottish Care has shared findings from its membership on the impact of ongoing funding pressures on the independent care home sector. The main findings suggest there is a total of 1,463 placement vacancies in the independent residential and/or nursing care sector, equating to 4 vacancies for every home. Almost half of respondents also reported a significant decrease in the numbers of individuals placed by the local authority or health board in care homes compared to 2022.

Carers

[Zoom sessions on the experiences of carers](#)

The Mental Welfare Commission is holding three Zoom sessions for family members and carers to share their experiences of providing care and support for individuals who have a mental illness, learning disability, autism, dementia or related conditions. The events will focus on the contact and support carers have received and the Mental Welfare Commission aims to include comments and feedback in its Carer themed visit report, to be published in September 2025.

Covid-19

[Inquiry invites applications on equalities and human rights](#)

The Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry is inviting applications from core participants for leave to appear in respect of its equalities and human rights impact hearings. The hearings are scheduled to begin on 10 June 2025.

Equalities

[Three local authority areas to receive health inequalities support](#)

Public Health Scotland has highlighted the launch of plans by the Collaboration for Health Equity in Scotland to help reduce health inequalities in three local authority areas. Work will take place in Aberdeen City, North Ayrshire and South Lanarkshire over the next two years to strengthen local plans to improve wellbeing in their communities.

Justice

[Independent review of sentencing and penal policy](#)

The Scottish Government has announced the Sentencing and Penal Policy Commission, to be chaired by Martyn Evans, former Chair of the Scottish Police Authority. The independent Commission will review sentencing and penal policy and identify the most effective ways to address offending behaviour, to reduce crime and lower the number of victims. The Commission's initial focus will be on community sentencing, bail and remand, and release from custody, with a final report and recommendations to be published by the end of this year.



[Recommendations to address antisocial behaviour and its impact](#)

The Independent Working Group on Antisocial Behaviour has published its report containing key observations and recommendations to address antisocial behaviour in Scotland. The report recommends establishing an independent oversight board to lead a whole-system approach, warning that anti-social behaviour cannot be viewed in isolation without considering factors such as poverty, mental health and poor access to youth work services. The report also notes the need for enhanced support and legislative tools to ensure victims of antisocial behaviour are protected.

Older People

[Charity helps older people claim over £2 million of benefits](#)

Age Scotland has identified over £2 million of unclaimed benefits for older people who used its helpline in 2024, following the charity's campaigns on Pension Credit and Attendance Allowance. Whilst welcoming the increased number of older people claiming these benefits, Age Scotland has warned there remains millions of pounds worth of benefits unclaimed.

Workforce

[Guidance on forthcoming PVG scheme changes](#)

Disclosure Scotland has published guidance on the Disclosure (Scotland) Act 2020 which will see the Protecting Vulnerable Groups scheme become a legal requirement from 1 April. New regulated roles will be introduced, including sports and talent agents or scouts who work with children and non-clinical hospital or hospice staff/volunteers who have unsupervised contact with children and/or protected adults. There will be a 3 month grace period after the PVG scheme becomes a legal requirement meaning that from 1 July onwards, it will become a criminal offence for individuals to carry out a regulated role if they are not a member of the PVG scheme, and organisations to offer a regulated role to an individual who is not a member of the PVG scheme.

[Survey of adult social care workforce \(England\)](#)

The Department of Health and Social Care has published survey findings on the adult social care workforce and work-related quality of life. Respondents were asked questions about overall wellbeing, experiences of physical violence, harassment, abuse and bullying, learning and development, and intentions to leave.



Other Health and Social Care

[Health and social care vision](#)

The Scottish Government has published a factsheet providing a summary of health and social care reform initiatives. It gives an overview of recent updates on health inequalities and priorities for improving the health service and social care, including shifting the balance of care into the community and homes. The factsheet confirmed a detailed operational improvement plan will be published in March, followed by the medium-term approach to health and social care reform before the summer.

[Self-evaluation test inspections for adult services](#)

The Care Inspectorate has published an update on its recent series of self-evaluation test inspections for adult services. Between October 2023 and June 2024, the Care Inspectorate worked with providers of adult care services to develop their skills around self-evaluation and provided practical support and advice to help services understand the process. During these inspections positive progress with self-evaluation was demonstrated across all service types.

[Lords amendments to National Insurance introduce exemptions](#)

The UK Government's National Insurance Contributions (Secondary Class 1 Contributions) Bill was examined by the House of Lords this week at report stage. Members of the Lords voted for a number of amendments, defeating the Government, which will ensure health and care providers are exempt from higher rates. Members also agreed charities with annual revenue less than £1 million should be exempt while employment allowance in the early years sector will be increased to £20,000. The House of Lords will consider the Bill at third reading stage next week.

[Evelyn McPhail appointed interim Chair of HIS](#)

The appointment of Evelyn McPhail as interim Chair of Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS) has been confirmed by the Scottish Government. Ms McPhail takes on the role, running for one year from 1 April, in her capacity as vice chair of HIS. She worked in the NHS and health and social care sector for 38 years until her retirement in 2019.

[Scottish Budget for 2025-26 approved by MSPs](#)

The Scottish Government's Budget for 2025-26 has been approved by the Scottish Parliament. The Budget, backed by the Greens, the Liberal Democrats and Alba, includes £21.7bn for health and social care, and funding to ensure all social care and early learning and childcare staff are paid at least the real living wage from April 2025.



Disclaimer

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

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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