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Adult Support and Protection

[Terms of reference for Adult Support and Protection National Strategic Forum](#)

The Scottish Government has published Terms of reference for the Adult Support and Protection (ASP) National Strategic Forum, which will provide a strategic and cross sectoral view of what is needed to improve the delivery of adult support and protection, and will assist Scottish Government and delivery partners in identifying the workstreams required to improve the assurance and operation of adult support and protection and its interface with existing and developing legislative and policy areas.

Alzheimer's/Dementia

[New music and dementia course opens](#)

The Dementia Services Development Centre has announced its new music and dementia training course will launch on 6 June. The training explores how music can create meaningful connections, bring joy, and enhance the wellbeing of people living with a dementia. The course introduces different music therapy models and practical ways to integrate music into dementia care.



Care Homes/Care at Home

[Scottish care homes census opens](#)

The Scottish care home census 2024-25 form has opened on Monday 14 April 2025 and care home services for adults and older people will be able to complete this through the Care Inspectorate [eForms](#) system. The census will be available to complete up to and including Sunday 1 June 2025.

Equalities

[Nursing council signs anti-racism charter](#)

The Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) has signed the UNISON Anti-Racism Charter, reaffirming their commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion by signing the charter at the first meeting of their Culture Transformation Steering Group. The charter outlines clear actions and accountability for tackling racism in the workplace with three areas: 'What our leaders will do'; 'What our organisation will do'; and 'What our equality auditing process will review', and 19 commitments.

[Supreme Court issues ruling on definition of a woman](#)

The Supreme Court this week delivered its verdict in the For Women Scotland Ltd v Scottish Ministers case, ruling the Equality Act's definition of a woman is based on biological sex. Lord Hodge, who delivered the judgement, stressed the law will still give trans people protection against discrimination. The case considered whether a person with a full gender recognition certificate which recognises their gender as female, is a woman for the purposes of the Equality Act 2010.

Workforce

[Recruitment open for coaching skills programme on improvement model](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) is drawing attention to the opening of applications for cohort six of the Care Experience Improvement Model Leaders programme (CEIM Leaders). Delivered in partnership with Healthcare Improvement Scotland, NHS Education for Scotland and the Care Inspectorate, CEIM provides a framework that supports health and social care teams to improve services based directly on the experiences of individuals who use them. With a coaching skills development programme designed to give staff the knowledge and skills to coach and lead teams to implement CEIM, this is open to people working in adult social services and healthcare services and is designed for people who work in, or directly with, teams that deliver care or support, are committed to improving quality and service user experience, and can dedicate time to leading improvement activity within their organisation.



[Research highlights stress levels in social care](#)

Home Care Insight has reported on research by Ciphir, suggesting people working in social care are regularly more stressed than other employees in the UK. Social care was amongst the most stressful jobs in the UK with one in six employees in service sectors reporting feeling stressed every single day at work. The article notes another recent survey by the Care Workers Charity (CWC), in which 54 per cent of care workers said they worry about work outside of working hours and 51 per cent said they feel excessive levels of stress or pressure.

Other Health and Social Care

[Identifying early warning signals in health and social care \(England\)](#)

Commissioned by the Care Quality Commission (CQC), the Patient Experience Library has published a research report on identifying 'red flags' (early warning signals) and harmful patterns of behaviour in health and social care. Using real-life examples to show the red flags for what could indicate a poor culture, the report has been commissioned to analyse warning signals from 10 years of avoidable harm inquiries. The report finds that where there is a problem, it usually involves multiple people who have failed to spot or deal with avoidable harm, and identifies three states in which problem cultures can give rise to failures of complacency, avoidance and denial.

[Increase in flu deaths](#)

National Records of Scotland data for the first 14 weeks of this year show flu was the underlying cause in 463 deaths, an increase on last year's 240 flu deaths. An addition 567 recorded deaths had flu mentioned on the death certificate so far in 2025. Campaigners have highlighted flu deaths are at the highest number since 1979 and are calling for flu vaccines to be reinstated for 50-64 year olds.

[Views welcome on Changing Places toilets](#)

The learning disabilities charity Pamis is seeking views on the Changing Places Toilets Scotland Fund and where people would like to see more Changing Places toilets built. The Scottish Government fund will open in summer 2025. It will offer up to £10 million over two financial years for organisations to apply for a Changing Places toilet in or adjacent to an existing building, or to develop a standalone Changing Places toilet.

[Scottish Government human rights newsletter](#)

The ALLIANCE has highlighted a new Scottish Government newsletter focused on human rights. The first edition includes updates on the next steps for the Human Rights Bill, engagement with the UK Government and the various Scottish Government working groups currently looking at human rights.



[Guidance for practitioners involved in safeguarding vulnerable children from Ukraine](#)

Guidance for all practitioners involved in safeguarding of children and adults who are arriving in Scotland from Ukraine to identify and respond to risk and need, has been published by the Scottish Government. This guidance is for all practitioners involved in the identification and safeguarding of vulnerable children and adults, and it highlights the vulnerabilities that services working with vulnerable children and adults at risk of harm should be aware of.

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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