

9 – 15 May 2025



bulletin



Adult and Health

[Alzheimer's/Dementia](#)[End of Life/Palliative Care](#)[Justice](#)[Learning Disabilities](#)[Mental Health](#)[Older People](#)[Workforce](#)[Other Health & Social Care](#)**Alzheimer's/Dementia**[Disappointment following assessment of proposed Alzheimer's treatment](#)

Alzheimer Scotland has expressed disappointment after the Scottish Medicines Consortium's assessment of Alzheimer's disease treatment donanemab was not been successful. Chief Executive Henry Simmons suggested there was a "vicious circle" in relation to the assessment of new drugs and called for a different approach in the way drugs are assessed for NHS use.

End of Life/Palliative Care[Assisted Dying Bill passes first parliamentary stage](#)

A Bill that would legalise assisted dying in Scotland has passed Stage 1 in the parliamentary process after MSPs voted 70 to 56 on its general principles. Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill, introduced by Liberal Democrat MSP Liam McArthur, would allow terminally ill adults in Scotland to lawfully request and be provided with assistance by health professionals to end their own life, if they are eligible. The Bill will now move on to Stage 2 where amendments to the Bill can be proposed and considered.



Justice

[National review of justice social work published by the Care Inspectorate](#)

Justice social work services continue to face challenges in demonstrating how the services they deliver help people to change and positively impact communities. However, a new national review carried out by the Care Inspectorate also found that people using justice services report that the support and supervision they receive is having a positive impact on their lives. The review evaluates how justice social work services evidence the performance, quality and outcomes of community sentences. It also sought to explore the factors affecting services' ability to demonstrate effectiveness and impact.

[Summary of first findings from Domestic Homicide and Suicide Review Model testing](#)

The Scottish Government has published a summary of the findings from phase one of the testing of a proposed national Domestic Homicide and Suicide Review Model. The development of a Domestic Homicide Review model is a commitment within the Equally Safe Delivery Plan, while the Criminal Justice Modernisation and Abusive Domestic Behaviour Reviews (Scotland) Bill, if passed, would create a statutory framework for a national system of Domestic Homicide and Suicide Reviews.

Learning Disabilities

[Report on commercial sexual exploitation of women with learning disabilities](#)

A research report on the commercial sexual exploitation (CSE) of women with learning disabilities has been published by CSE Aware, a project funded by the Scottish Government through Delivering Equally Safe. The report describes itself as a "first step" in exploring learning disabled women's experiences of CSE in Scotland and calls for the Scottish Government to commission in-depth research exploring the prevalence, dynamics and understanding of the issue, and to review the application of Adult Support and Protection legislation in relation to cases of CSE. An [easy read leaflet](#) on CSE has been published alongside the report.

Mental Health

[Mental Health Awareness Week continues](#)

Mental Health Awareness Week continues until Sunday 18 May, aiming to raise awareness and promote open conversations about mental health. Led by the Mental Health Foundation, the theme this year is 'community'.

Older People

[Age Scotland seeks older people's community champions](#)

A nationwide search for the inaugural older people's community champion has been launched by Age Scotland. For the first time the charity's annual awards will include



community champion category to celebrate those who make a big difference to the older person they help. Nominations are open until 27 June.

Workforce

[Overseas recruitment for adult social care to end, UK Government announces](#)

The Adult Social Care visa scheme is to end, the UK Government has announced. The measure is among a number of reforms set out in a white paper to “reshape our immigration system towards those who contribute most to economic growth”. For a transition period until 2028, visa extensions and in-country switching will be extended for those already in the UK. According to the white paper, the visa route has led to significant concerns over abuse and exploitation of individual workers, while poor pay and conditions has resulted in low domestic recruitment and retention rates. The Government has committed to establishing Fair Pay Agreements which it argues will “move the UK away from a dependence on overseas workers to fulfil our care needs”.

- [Scottish Care](#) described the move as “reckless and inhumane”, calling for an immigration approach that is “non-party political, evidence-based, and tailored to Scotland’s demographic needs”.
- Scotland’s Social Care Minister Maree Todd gave a [statement](#) in the Scottish Parliament criticising the announcement, highlighting its potential impact alongside the increase in Employer National Insurance Contributions.

[New National Induction Framework for Adult Social Care](#)

A new National Induction Framework for Adult Social Care has been launched by the Scottish Social Services Council and NHS Education for Scotland (NES). The Framework, free for all adult social care workers, organisations and people thinking of joining the sector, is an online induction learning programme providing a foundation of knowledge relevant to specific roles, with accessible eLearning courses and learning materials to be completed flexibly during the induction period.

[Enable Scotland care staff to strike later in May](#)

Enable Scotland care staff are to take strike action later in the month, the BBC reports. The strikes will take place across five days in different regions, beginning on 29 May in East Renfrewshire then continuing in Aberdeenshire, Moray, Ayrshire, Edinburgh and Glasgow, before a march and rally at the Scottish Parliament on 12 June. [UNISON Scotland](#) said the decision was not taken lightly but suggested workers had been left with “no other option”.

[New interactive dashboard offers weekly updates on SSSC register](#)

A new interactive dashboard providing weekly updated data on the SSSC register has been launched. The dashboard provides access to real time updates on registered individuals, removals from the SSSC register and findings from the leavers survey.



Other Health and Social Care

[Survey results on Realistic Medicine progress](#)

The results of a survey on the practise of Realistic Medicine have been published by the Scottish Government. The report sets out the views of over 1,800 health and care professionals on progress towards the vision that “all health and care professionals would be supported to practise Realistic Medicine by 2025”. Topics covered include support for practising Realistic Medicine, barriers encountered, and future priorities.

Position papers on independent advocacy issues

The Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance has published two position papers exploring issues relating to independent advocacy. [Lang May Yer Voice Sound: Sustaining Collective and Citizen Advocacy Models](#) looks at protecting collective and citizen advocacy amid funding challenges, while [Sensible Sharing: Safeguarding Scottish Advocacy Independence Through Data Sharing Best Practices](#) highlights concerns that monitoring requirements from commissioners and funders may be compromising the essential independence of advocacy services.

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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