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and
Health



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Alzheimer's/Dementia

[Inequality in care for people living with advanced dementia](#)

The Fair Dementia Care Commission established by Alzheimer Scotland has published its report on the inequality in access to health care and the disproportionate impact of social care charges faced by people with advanced dementia, their families, and carers in Scotland. The 'Delivering Fair Dementia Care For People With Advanced Dementia' report sets out a definition and estimates the prevalence of advanced dementia, calculates the costs to people with advanced dementia, and the current frameworks for social care charges, as well as making recommendations for each of these areas.

[New tactile wooden tools for people living with dementia](#)

The Alzheimer's Society and University of Central Lancashire have funded the development of new tactile wooden tools to provide meaningful activity for people living with dementia who have fidgeting behaviours and have difficulty with words. The specially designed widgets in the Fidget Widget toolkit, use touch, feel and repetitive movements, each with a particular motion; spin, slide, twist, turn and roll, and are intended to be unrecognisable, removing any need to rely on memory or words to use them



Alzheimer's/Dementia

[Funding for dementia inclusive choir network](#)

The Life Changes Trust and Baring Foundation have awarded funding of £225,000 to establish a dementia inclusive choir network to be overseen by the creative ageing organisation Luminare and supported by Age Scotland, Scottish Care, and Making Music. The new nation-wide network will offer opportunities for people living with dementia and their carers to come together within their own communities to do something that is meaningful to them as well as develop social relationships through singing.

Care Homes/Care at Home

[Business report on care homes](#)

Carehome.co.uk discusses the latest Business Outlook report by Christie & Co on the care home market in the UK. The key points in the report are the pressure on smaller care homes, interest from investors and care home purchase prices, the focus on “building in locations with more self funded residents rather than those reliant on local authority fees”, and problems felt by care home providers such as staffing, funding and the regulatory environment.

[Nominations for awards for the care at home and housing support sectors](#)

Scottish Care has announced that nominations for their annual awards will open in February and their members can submit nominations throughout the month. In 2019, Scottish Care will be celebrating those working in the Care at Home and Housing Support sector in Scotland at their awards, and the awards will follow the Care at Home & Housing Support Conference and Exhibition 2019, ‘Redressing the balance: the potential of homecare’.

[Care home providers revise terms following CMA investigation \(England\)](#)

The Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) has updated information on their care homes consumer protection case, in which they are investigating concerns that some care homes may be breaching consumer law, and three care home providers (Care UK, Hallmark Care Homes Group Holdings Limited and The Fremantle Trust) have made changes to their terms and conditions. This follows the CMA’s investigation and publication of consumer law advice to care home providers, and each care home has on a voluntary basis made changes to the terms of their standard residential contracts, which cover the period for which fees are required to be paid following a resident’s death, and the treatment of their possessions.

End of Life/Palliative Care

[Consultation on timescales for adult and young carer support plans](#)

The Scottish Government has launched a consultation on Timescales for adult carer support plans and young carer statements for carers of people who are terminally ill.



The Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 extends and enhances the rights of unpaid carers in Scotland by giving ALL carers the right to an adult carer support plan or young carer statement. These documents identify the outcomes that are important to the carer; their needs; and any support to be provided. The Act requires Scottish Ministers to set timescales for preparing adult carer support plans and young carer statements for carers of people who are terminally ill, with a life expectancy of up to 6 months. The consultation closes on 12 April 2019.

Health

[New SIGN guideline on prenatal alcohol exposure](#)

Clinical guidance on prenatal alcohol exposure has been published by the Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN). The guideline provides evidence-based recommendations on measurement of alcohol consumption in pregnancy and consensus-based recommendations on issues such as identification of children at risk of fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD), criteria for diagnosis of FASD and management and follow up of children and young people affected by prenatal alcohol exposure.

Human Rights

[Update on progress in thematic areas of human rights](#)

An update has been published outlining progress in implementing the UN Human Rights Council recommendations in five thematic areas – domestic human rights framework, violence against women and girls, tackling racial discrimination, access to justice, and human trafficking and slavery.

Justice

[Stage 1 Report on the Vulnerable Witnesses \(Criminal Evidence\)\(Scotland\) Bill](#)

The Justice Committee has published its Stage 1 Report on the Vulnerable Witnesses (Criminal Evidence)(Scotland) Bill which aims to improve how children and vulnerable witnesses participate in the criminal justice system by enabling the greater use of pre-recorded evidence. The report discusses the main aspects of the Bill, and overall recommends that the Parliament approves the general principles of the Bill.

Mental Health

[NICE suggests digital CBT as first-line treatment for young people with depression](#)

Children and young people with depression can be offered digital cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) as first-line treatment, according to updated guidance by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE). The recommendation emphasises the importance of personal choice in deciding on treatment for depression and suggests digital interventions can play an important role. The guidance is out for consultation until 20 February.



[Suicide prevention plan \(England\)](#)

The UK Parliament's Department of Health and Social Care has published a cross-government suicide prevention workplan, setting out the actions being taken up to 2020 to carry out the suicide prevention strategy for England.

Other Health and Social Care

[Plan for containing and controlling antimicrobial resistance \(England\)](#)

The UK Parliament's Department of Health and Social Care, Food & Rural Affairs, Department of Health and Social Care, Public Health England, and Veterinary Medicines Directorate have published a 20 year vision and five year national action plan for how the UK will contribute to containing and controlling antimicrobial resistance by 2040. A major focus of the plan is to make sure current antibiotics stay effective by reducing the number of resistant infections and supporting clinicians to prescribe appropriately.

Other

[Care Inspectorate email updates](#)

Sign up to receive Care Inspectorate updates for the latest care news and updates sent straight to your inbox. The first edition of Care News has been sent out, and people are being encouraged to sign up to receive this and other updates.

[Care Leavers Covenant Conference in Glasgow on 12 March](#)

The Scottish Care Leavers Covenant Conference 2019 will take place on 12 March. The Covenant was launched in October 2015 to support Scotland's corporate parents, practitioners, managers and decision makers to fulfil their duties to improve the life chances of all of Scotland's care experienced young people. The themes of the conference, taking place in Glasgow, will focus on home, connection and felt security. These will be addressed within the context of rights and wellbeing.



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 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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