



Adult
and
Health



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Alzheimer's/Dementia

[People at risk of Alzheimer's identified by a mobile phone game](#)

Carehome.co.uk reports on the use of a mobile phone game, 'Sea Hero Quest', to identify people most at risk of developing Alzheimer's. The mobile phone game was created by Deutsche Telekom in partnership with Alzheimer's Research UK, University College London (UCL), the University of East Anglia and game developers Glitchers. It has been designed to help researchers better understand dementia by seeing how the brain works in relation to spatial navigation, and the data collected from people who play the game can be used as a benchmark to help identify those at risk of developing Alzheimer's.



Care Homes/Care at Home

[RPS vision for improving pharmaceutical care of residents in care homes](#)

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) has published a report setting out a vision for improving the pharmaceutical care of people in care homes. The report, 'Putting residents at the centre of pharmacy care home services', calls for:

- recognition that pharmaceutical care in care homes is a specialist area and for it to be resourced accordingly
- pharmacists to lead on the provision of pharmaceutical care in care homes, including regular medication reviews as part of the multidisciplinary team (MDT) to improve the quality and safety of patient care
- care homes to have dedicated time from pharmacists and their teams embedded in their service to ensure safe and efficient medicine management systems are in place
- care home residents to have equity of access to community pharmacy NHS pharmaceutical care services
- Scottish Government, NHS Health Boards, Integrated Joint Boards (IJBs) and Care Providers to implement our recommendations to make sure that residents in care homes have access to the highest standards of pharmaceutical care and quality of life

Carers

[Survey for third sector staff on the Carers \(Scotland\) Act](#)

The Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (the ALLIANCE) is highlighting a survey being run by the Coalition of Carers in Scotland on the awareness of third sector staff of the Carers (Scotland) Act. The Coalition of Carers in Scotland are funded to support third sector organisations in Scotland with the implementation of the Carers (Scotland) Act. The survey runs until 10 May 2019 and will help them understand how best to support third sector and community based organisations.

Health

[European Immunisation Week \(24 – 30 April 2019\)](#)

Every year, the World Health Organization (WHO) European Region marks European Immunisation Week (EIW) to promote immunisation as vital to preventing diseases and protecting life, and it runs from 24 to 30 April 2019. This year the campaign aims to raise awareness of the benefits of vaccination and to celebrate the 'vaccine heroes' who contribute in so many ways to protecting lives through vaccination. 'Vaccine heroes' include health workers who administer vaccines, parents who choose vaccination for their children, and everyone who seeks evidence-based information and passes it on to empower others.



Justice

[Implementation and management of community payback orders in the Borders](#)

The Care Inspectorate has published a report into how well community payback orders are implemented and managed in the Scottish Borders Council area. In the first inspection of its kind, a team of inspectors looked at how justice social work services in the area were delivering services for individuals who are, or have been, subject to community payback orders. Inspectors found individuals subject to community payback orders experienced strong, respectful and consistent relationships with staff. However, they also noted that the service was not able to demonstrate the difference these relationships were making to improved outcomes.

[Advance redress payment scheme for historical childhood abuse survivors](#)

Survivors of childhood abuse which occurred in care can now apply for advanced redress payments, the Scottish Government has announced. Deputy First Minister John Swinney told Parliament that the Advance Payment Scheme comes ahead of the planned legislation for a statutory redress scheme, due to be passed before March 2021. The advance payments, open to people who have a terminal illness or are aged 70 or over, have been set at a flat rate of £10,000 and will be ex gratia and discretionary.

[Briefing on vulnerable witnesses legislation](#)

The Scottish Parliament's Information Centre (SPICe) has published a briefing on the Vulnerable Witnesses (Criminal Evidence)(Scotland) Bill summarising the main issues considered at stage 1 and 2 in the legislative process. The briefing notes that the Scottish Government written response to the stage 1 report refers to the Care Inspectorate and Healthcare Improvement Scotland developing Scotland-specific standards for Barnahus, or 'child's house', the principle that all criminal justice services for children are provided under one roof to ensure that children receive the necessary support and treatment.

[Call for routine screening of prisoners for head injuries](#)

The Scotsman reports that a professor of clinical neuropsychology at Glasgow University, Tom McMillan, is calling for routine screening of prisoners for head injuries to cut re-offending rates and reduce the number of suicides in custody. Whilst suggesting the introduction of a short health interview with a brief questionnaire about head injuries for those entering prison, Mr McMillan sees this as being integrated with other health-related issues. Dr Ivan Pitman, who carried out a study on brain injuries at HMP Leeds on behalf of the Disabilities Trust, is also quoted as stating that there are people with head injuries who have been misdiagnosed as suffering from mental health problems, and that those who have suffered a head trauma are known to be up to five times more at risk of suicide.



[Support for people leaving prison to reintegrate with their community](#)

Funding has been announced for mentoring services to help and support people leaving prison to reintegrate with their community, the Scottish Government's Justice Secretary has announced. Mentors provide specialist one-to-one support and guidance to prison leavers, offering help to overcome the challenges many face on release, from dealing with problems such as ill-health, debt or substance abuse, as well as assisting with longer-term aims like finding a job or rebuilding family relationships. These services will work in partnership with the Scottish Prison Service's Throughcare Support Service, which also offers support to individuals completing short-term sentences.

Mental Health

[Measures to support young people's mental health announced](#)

Measures to improve and support the mental health of young people have been set out by the Scottish Government. As announced previously, £90,000 will be provided to produce advice for young people on the healthy use of social media and screen time. A review of evidence on the effects of screen use on sleep and the implications of this for mental health will also be commissioned.

Older People

[Tackling intergenerational unfairness \(England\)](#)

The House of Lord's Committee on Intergenerational Fairness and Provision has published a report on tackling intergenerational unfairness, and amongst other conclusions the report calls for better in-work training and lifelong learning to prepare the UK for the coming 100-year lifespan. The Committee sets out a range of recommendations across different policy areas to tackle the challenge of retaining the supportive relationship between generations and take a more long-term policy approach.

Other Health and Social Care

[Developing the digital capability of the health and social care workforce](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) is working in partnership with NHS Education of Scotland (NES) and Local Government Digital Office (LGDO) to develop the digital capabilities of leaders and the wider health and social care workforce across Scotland. They have identified three key elements to develop the digital capability of the workforce:

- leadership – how people in senior roles lead in digital transformation
- digital culture – developing a culture where technology an integral part of delivering good services
- addressing the skill needs of the workforce – providing learning resources and services to assist the workforce to develop their capability and comfort with digital technology



[Annual report of the Chief Medical Officer for Scotland](#)

The Chief Medical Officer has published their fourth annual report for 2017 – 2018 on 'Personalising Realistic Medicine', with a focus on the principle of Building a Personalised Approach to Care. The report examines how to personalise Realistic Medicine for patients and staff, how to overcome the challenges in the system to deliver this care, and how the other domains of Realistic Medicine contribute to achieving this aim.

[SASW statement on West Dunbartonshire social work issues](#)

The Scottish Association of Social Workers (SASW) has released a statement on issues raised by social workers in West Dunbartonshire. SASW said: "New information has come to light over the weekend in relation to a child within the local authority being left to sleep on a sofa for three months at a residential unit". It is noted that within West Dunbartonshire social workers have voted for strike action.

Other

[£3m scheme to support safe and supportive housing for care leavers](#)

A £3m scheme to provide safe and supportive housing for care leavers has been launched by the Life Changes Trust. The Home and Belonging initiative is designed to provide an opportunity for housing providers, designers, local authorities, creative professionals and those who work with young people to create a safe, welcoming and personal spaces for care experienced people. Eleven projects from across Scotland will benefit from the funding.

[Addressing poor and unequal health in Scotland](#)

NHS Health Scotland has published a report on action to address the fundamental causes of poor and unequal health in Scotland. The report, 'Informing Interventions to reduce health Inequalities (Triple I) National overview report 2019', compares the potential impacts of interventions on health inequalities in Scotland.

[Interim report on funding awards by the CYPFEI & ALEC Fund](#)

The Children, Young People & Families Early Intervention and Adult Learning & Empowering Communities (CYPFEI & ALEC) Fund was established to enhance the core services and infrastructure of third sector organisations in relevant policy areas during the period 2016-19, and the Scottish Government has published an interim evaluation of the Fund to help inform future decisions. [Research findings](#) have also been published.

[National outcome framework for volunteering](#)

A national outcome framework for volunteering has been published by the Scottish Government. The framework is designed to: set out "a coherent and compelling narrative for volunteering"; define the key outcomes desired for volunteering in Scotland over the next ten years; identify the key data and evidence that will inform,



indicate and drive performance at a national and local level; and enable informed debate and decision about the optimal combination of programmes, investments and interventions. A [literature review](#) and [research summary](#) have also been published.

[Academic suggests moving on from single-word inspection judgements \(England\)](#)

An article suggesting “we need to move beyond the problematic use of single-word judgements” in relation to Ofsted inspections has been published by Community Care. David Wilkins, a senior lecturer in social work at Cardiff University and assistant director of the Children’s Social Care Research and Development Centre, concludes: “Inspection is an important function of public protection – although I question whether it can be both a function of protection and a ‘force for improvement’. In our current study, we’re not seeing any evidence that authorities improve in relation to outcome measures between inspections.”

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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