

Adult
and
Health



[Adult Protection](#)

[Alzheimer's/Dementia](#)

[Care Homes/Care at Home](#)

[Infection Prevention and Control](#)

[Justice](#)

[Older People](#)

[Workforce](#)

[Other Health & Social Care](#)

Adult Protection

[Minutes from ASP National Strategic Forum meeting published](#)

Minutes of the most recent meeting of the Adult Support and Protection (ASP) National Strategic Forum have been published by the Scottish Government. The meeting took place on 5 March, with a proposed ASP inspection programme and the Scottish Government ASP Improvement Plan among items on the agenda.

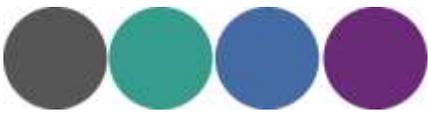
Alzheimer's/Dementia

[Smell tests could help identify dementia risk, study suggests](#)

Smell tests could help identify older people who are at greater risk of developing dementia, according to a study highlighted by The Guardian. Published in the Annals of Internal Medicine, research by academics in the US and Sweden saw more than 2,200 people aged between 71 and 82 undertake smell identification tests which were followed up over 13 years. According to the findings, a poor sense of smell was linked to a 46% greater risk of dying within 10 years compared with those ranked as having a good sense of smell, with a particular link made between poor smell and death from dementia and Parkinson's disease.

[Clinical image database to tackle diseases such as dementia](#)

A database of millions of clinical images could be turned into a research tool to help tackle health conditions, such as dementia.



The £4.4m PICTURES project, led by the University of Dundee in conjunction with the University of Edinburgh, Abertay University and NHS Scotland, will make use of approximately 30m images collected since 2006 and use Artificial Intelligence to search for 'warning signs' in which predict the development of diseases. Lung cancer and dementia will be the subject of exemplar studies for the project.

[Many diagnosed with Alzheimer's may actually have newly identified form of dementia, say researchers](#)

A newly identified form of dementia was previously misdiagnosed as Alzheimer's disease, according to research highlighted by the BBC. Limbic-predominant age-related TDP-43 encephalopathy, or Late, shares similar symptoms to Alzheimer's but is a distinct disease, according to a study published in the journal Brain. Up to a third of Alzheimer's diagnoses may instead be Late, according to the researchers, who have issued guidelines to help increase awareness and advance research.

[BBC article explores the 'greatest health challenge of our time'](#)

The BBC has published a feature article describing dementia as the 'greatest health challenge of our time'. Coinciding with a BBC [television programme](#) focusing on a dementia choir, the article explores the science around dementia, why is becoming more common and efforts to find a treatment.

Care Homes/Care at Home

[Four Seasons goes into administration](#)

Four Seasons Health Care Group has gone into administration. A press release states: "The operating companies under which the care home and hospital operations sit are not in administration and continue to be run as normal by the existing leadership teams. The Group has entered into a funding agreement which provides sufficient operational funding to ensure continuity of care for all of the Group's residents and patients during the independent sales process period." Four Seasons has also published a [Q&A for residents and family](#).

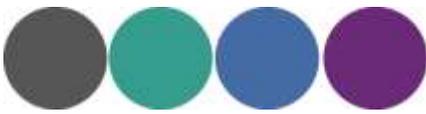
[Scottish Care National Director blogs on putting human rights into commissioning](#)

It is time to "put human rights into the Commissioning Cycle", according to Scottish Care National Director Karen Hedge. In a blog, Ms Hedge argues that there is often confusion between commissioning and procurement, and that a focus on measuring outputs "limits our possibilities". She calls for a change in approach, taken "with courage, and from the perspective of the person accessing care and support".

Infection Prevention and Control

[Committee sets out themes and issues raised during health hazards inquiry](#)

A parliamentary committee has set out the themes emerging in an inquiry into Health Hazards in the Healthcare Environment. The Health and Sport Committee launched its inquiry following a range of incidents at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital.



Writing to the Health Secretary, the Committee notes that the levels of health problems acquired from the healthcare environment are low but raises “concerns regarding how comprehensive the current surveillance and monitoring approach is in identifying incidents and producing accurate data on their prevalence”.

[World Hand Hygiene Day – 5 May](#)

The theme for World Hand Hygiene Day, taking place on 5 May, is ‘Clean care for all – it’s in your hands’. The day promotes the practice of hand hygiene in all care settings. Health Protection Scotland has given its backing to the campaign and undertaken a several activities to promote the day.

Justice

[Review of international evidence to support Restorative Justice Action Plan](#)

The Scottish Government has published a rapid evidence review looking at international case studies showing different approaches governments have taken to provide access to Restorative Justice services. Intended to support development of Scotland’s Restorative Justice Action Plan, the review looks at centralisation/devolution, policies towards different offence/offender types, and availability across different stages of the justice process.

[Justice Secretary clarifies timescales for Scotland-specific Barnahus standards](#)

Justice Secretary Humza Yousaf has clarified plans and timescales for the development of Scotland-specific standards for Barnahus. Based on the European PROMISE Quality Standards, the work will be led by the Care Inspectorate and Healthcare Improvement Scotland with engagement from stakeholders. A scoping report will be published for consultation in June 2019, with work to develop the detailed standards to begin in August 2019. An initial draft will be available for consultation by the end of 2019, with the final standards due by early summer 2020.

Older People

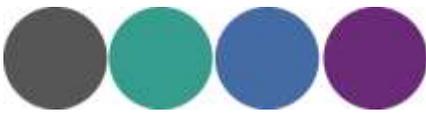
[Research explores older men’s experience of loneliness](#)

Older men’s experience of loneliness and social isolation is the subject of new research supported by Age UK. More than 100 men over the age of 65 shared their views of what it means to be lonely with researchers from the University of Bristol as part of the Older Men at the Margins. Many of the men taking part felt socially excluded for cultural and practical reasons. Finding groups where the men felt they could be themselves and feel a sense of purpose was key to the men interviewed.

Workforce

[Staffing Bill passed by MSPs following unanimous vote](#)

A Bill designed to enable high quality health and social care through appropriate staffing has been passed with the unanimous backing of MSPs. The [Health and](#)



[Care \(Staffing\) \(Scotland\) Bill](#) will place a legal requirement on care services to ensure appropriate numbers of suitably trained staff are in place, maintaining but replacing existing requirements in Regulation 15 of The Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (Requirements for Care Services) Regulations 2011. The Bill also includes provision for the Care Inspectorate to collaborate with the care sector to develop and validate appropriate staffing methodologies and tools, applying initially to care homes for adults.

[Video shows what to expect at SSSC hearing](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has produced a video to show social service workers and witnesses what it is like if they attend a SSSC hearing. The video aims to help those attending hearings get a better idea of what happens when they arrive, the rooms they may visit, who will be there and what they do.

[SSSC encourages applications for leadership programme](#)

The SSSC is encouraging senior leaders in social services to apply for the 2019-20 Leading for the Future programme. Leading for the Future is a package of leadership and management development, run in partnership with health boards, local authorities and other public service organisations, for those in senior leadership roles across health, social care and partner organisations. The deadline for applications is 30 May 2019 at 12.00 noon.

[SPSO consults on draft National Whistleblowing Standards](#)

A consultation on a set of draft National Whistleblowing Standards has been launched by the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman (SPSO). The Standards are being developed ahead of the introduction of the new role of the Independent National Whistleblowing Officer (INWO), which is to be undertaken by the SPSO. The consultation on the draft Standards will run until 28 June.

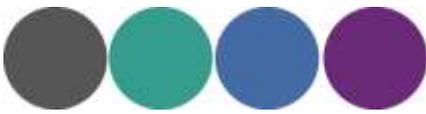
Other Health and Social Care

[Iriss seeking ideas for evidence summaries](#)

Iriss is asking for ideas to be the focus of future evidence summaries on social services related topics. Iriss Insights look at an issue and draw out implications for practice and policy, with an intention to support debate, discussion and reflection. Any ideas can be submitted to Iriss with a short outline by Friday 17 May.

[Findings from scoping review on social work practice recording](#)

A summary of an initial scoping review on how practice is recorded in social work in Scotland has been published by Iriss. The scoping review was undertaken in response to an initial call from East Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership to address how care experienced adults access and understand their records, and how practitioners could use co-production tools to make recording practice a more inclusive and accessible process.



[Disability charities launch formal partnership](#)

ENABLE Scotland and Sense Scotland have formally partnered as the Piper Group, Third Force News reports. The two disability charities will retain their brands and missions but the new group will share resources and oversee back office functions including IT, HR, learning and development, digital, finance and payroll departments.

[Findings of Significant Case Review into Sharon Greenop's death published](#)

The findings of a significant case review into the circumstances surrounding the death of Sharon Greenop have been published by South Ayrshire Chief Officers' Group for Public Protection. Ms Greenop's sister was convicted of murder and sentenced to life imprisonment in May 2018. The purpose of the Significant Case Review was to consider social work's involvement with Sharon and identify whether there were lessons to be learned about how better to protect adults at risk.

[NICE launches new health technology resource](#)

A new online resource to identify and support the introduction of new technologies in the health and social care system across the UK has been launched by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE). HealthTech Connect will help companies understand what is needed by decision makers in the health and care system, and also help the system to better plan for the introduction and adoption of health technologies.

[Report calls for state pension model to secure future of care system \(England\)](#)

A report proposing a model based on the state pension to secure the future of the care system has been published by the Centre for Policy Studies. Fixing the Care Crisis, led by Damian Green MP, argues that the current care system is unsustainable and that support should be offered through a Universal Care Entitlement topped up by a Care Supplement.

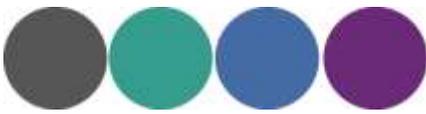
[King's Fund provides '360 degree' view of social care sector \(England\)](#)

A review analysing key trends in adult social care over recent years has been published by The King's Fund. Social Care 360 uses a variety of publicly available data sources to provide a '360 degree' picture of the sector in England. The findings suggest there are "significant challenges" for the system, identifying themes such as a growth in support required by disabled working-age adults and underinvestment in preventive services.

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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