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Alcohol/Drugs

[Inquiry into high levels of drugs misuse and drug-related deaths](#)

The UK House of Commons' Scottish Affairs Committee will undertake an inquiry into the high levels of drug misuse and drug-related deaths in Scotland, the BBC reports. Written evidence submitted to the Committee has reportedly highlighted links between mental health conditions and problematic drug use.

[Study into ban on second-hand smoke in prisons](#)

Researchers at the University of Stirling's Institute of Social Marketing, together with the University of Glasgow and in partnership with the Scottish Prison Service, have published a study into the second-hand tobacco smoke concentrations where smoking is banned across the prison estate. The study shows improvements in the levels of second-hand smoke, with an average fall of 81%, using air quality monitors to measure fine particulate matter, between 2016 and in November 2018 after the smoking ban was introduced.



Alzheimer's/Dementia

[Psychological Interventions in Response to Stress & Distress in Dementia](#)

Scottish Care is promoting an event by NHS Education for Scotland (NES) to relaunch a revised Psychological Interventions in Response to Stress & Distress in Dementia on 26th June in Stirling. The event will provide an update on the development of the revised training programme, outline the rationale for refreshing the programme, introduce revision to the content and case studies, and highlight changes in the content and programme structure.

[Call for dementia fund \(England\)](#)

The Alzheimer's Society are highlighting their new Fix Dementia Care campaign and their call for a Dementia Fund to end the dementia penalty people face when paying for care in England. Reportedly, people living with dementia are faced with higher costs for their care, costing an average 15% more than if they had standard social care. Alzheimer's Society is calling for a £2.4bn Dementia Fund, mapped within plans to deliver the NHS Long Term Plan and then established in the upcoming Spending Review.

Care Homes/Care at Home

[Research on use of 'robopets'](#)

Research by the University of Exeter Medical School and published in the International Journal of Older People Nursing has been highlighted by carehome.co.uk as suggesting that the use of robotic pets that can respond to human interaction are improving the health and wellbeing of older people living in care homes. Bringing together evidence from 19 robopet studies, the research reportedly found that robotpets can provide comfort and pleasure and reduce agitation and loneliness in older people, and could increase social interaction with other residents, family members and staff, often through acting as a stimulus for conversation.

End of Life/Palliative Care

[Initiative to support communities improve experiences of death, dying, loss and care](#)

A new initiative titled 'The Truacanta Project' aims to provide up to four communities in Scotland with community development advice and support for a period of two years to help them take community action to improve people's experiences of death, dying, loss and care. Interested community groups and organisations are invited to express their interest in being part of the project by 15 June 2019.



Health

[Green Book chapter on influenza updated](#)

Chapter 19 of the Green Book, which addresses influenza in the UK for public health professionals, has been updated by Public Health England. As reported by Health Protection Scotland, the recent update includes changes to the asthma and egg allergy sections and added information on newly licensed influenza vaccines.

Justice

[Managing high-risk sex offenders](#)

The Institute for Research and Innovation in Social Services (Iriss) has published an Insight on 'Managing high-risk sex offenders: messages for practice', outlining the relevant research to support practitioners working with high-risk offenders. Key points of the Insight include:

- the task of managing sex offenders is complex, with registered sex offenders managed through multi-agency public protection arrangements (MAPPA) since 2007
- policy and guidance emphasises management of risk, and the need for increased understanding of, and more guidance around, online offenders and 'sexting'
- high-risk sex offenders pose different levels of risk at different times during their offending careers
- evidence of effectiveness is emerging in relation to risk reduction, combining use of structured risk assessment tools with strength-based and desistance approaches, underpinned by offender-supervisor relationships
- greater understanding of offender diversity is required to inform and manage risk

[Vulnerable Witnesses Bill passed by MSPs](#)

A Bill setting out reforms aimed at improving provisions to assist vulnerable witnesses in giving evidence in criminal cases has been passed unanimously by MSPs. The [Vulnerable Witnesses \(Criminal Evidence\) \(Scotland\) Bill](#) has a particular focus on greater use of pre-recorded evidence at trial. Following the Justice Committee's Stage 1 report on the Bill, the Scottish Government said the Care Inspectorate and Healthcare Improvement Scotland would lead on the development of Scotland-specific standards for the use of the Barnahus approach for child witnesses. The Justice Secretary recently wrote to the Committee setting out a [timetable](#) for this work.



Mental Health

[Virtual marathon to encourage physical activity to improve mental wellbeing](#)

The Samaritans have launched a virtual marathon, 'Samarathon', which allows supporters to register and run, jog or walk 26.2 miles during July at their own pace. The hope is that by allowing people to travel the normal marathon distance wherever and whenever over the month, they will increase their physical activity, improve their mental wellbeing, and raise money.

Older People

[Findings on health outcomes experienced by older LGBT people](#)

A report 'Raising the equality flag: Health inequalities among older LGBT people in the UK', has been published by the International Longevity Centre UK, exploring the discrepancies in health outcomes experienced by older LGBT people. Analysing new data from a project conducted by researchers at University College London (UCL), Cardiff University, and ILC, the report states that, "LGBT men and women aged 50+ have poorer self-rated health and are more likely to have other conditions that impact their health and wellbeing".

Other

[Tool to be developed help newly qualified practitioners access relevant evidence](#)

A new tool is to be developed by the Institute for Research and Innovation in Social Services (Iriss) as part of their project 'Navigating evidence', which will aim to equip newly qualified practitioners with the skills and confidence to access evidence relevant for practice, improvement and learning. The tool will also build on the work of their online course, 'Finding evidence', and support practitioner knowledge of, and influence their attitudes around, the importance of evidence-informed practice in the first year.

Other Health and Social Care

[Discussion paper on engaging with the public when redesigning services](#)

The Scottish Government has published 'Integration Authorities and Patient Engagement Discussion Paper', setting out the standards and guidance in place to support and direct Integration Authorities on how to engage with members of the public when redesigning services.

[Report on 'What matters to you?' day](#)

Healthcare Improvement Scotland has published a report on Scotland's participation in 'What matters to you?' day, outlining their key learning and next steps. 'What matters to you?' day aims to encourage and support more meaningful conversations



between people who provide health and social care and the people who receive care and support, as well as their families and carers.

Case studies sought to showcase health inequalities work

NHS Health Scotland is looking for examples based on the following inequalities statements: [Maximising the role of NHS Scotland in reducing health inequalities](#) and [The role of Health and Social Care Partnerships in reducing health inequalities](#). The statements provide a framework of practical actions that allow health and social care planners and managers to consider health inequalities in the early stages of developing strategic plans and priorities. NHS Health Scotland is keen to gather examples of work that health boards and health and social care partnerships are doing to address health inequalities. Examples should be sent to arma.sayed-rafiq@nhs.net to discuss further.

Self-Directed Support

[Research project on experiences of SDS](#)

Self Directed Support Scotland and the Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (the ALLIANCE) are running a research project called 'My Support My Choice: user experiences of Self-directed Support (SDS) in Scotland', funded by the Scottish Government. The research project will ask about the experiences of social care users and their families, and examine local authority assessment, information and continual support practices in relation to SDS. They are looking to hear from people who use social care and Self-directed Support or have been assessed for social care in the last 12 months.

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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