Alcohol and Drugs

**FASD Hub launched by Adoption UK Scotland**

A new service to support parents and carers of children and young people who were, or suspected of having been, exposed to alcohol during pregnancy has been launched by Adoption UK Scotland. The Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Hub Scotland offers information, support and training to relevant professionals who support these families affected by FASD.

**Health experts call for drug consumption rooms in Glasgow**

Health experts have highlighted the potential benefits of a safe drug consumption room in Glasgow in oral evidence at Westminster. NHS Health Scotland Public Health Intelligence Adviser Elinor Dickie and NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde Medical Director for Addictions Dr Saket Priyadarshi were among those making the case for the approach at the Scottish Affairs Committee as part of an inquiry into problem drug use in Scotland.
Alcohol volume sold in Scotland falls to lowest level since 1994

The volume of alcohol sold per adult in Scotland is at its lowest level since 1994, according to an NHS monitoring report. The Monitoring and Evaluating Scotland’s Alcohol Strategy report found that there was a 3% fall in alcohol sales per adult in Scotland from the previous year and the volume of alcohol sold compared to England and Wales represented the smallest gap since 2002. The Scottish Government said the figures represent a “promising start following our world-leading action to introduce minimum unit pricing”.

Alzheimer’s/Dementia

New football reminiscence initiative announced to mark 10 years of the programme

A new initiative between NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde (NHS GGC) and Football Memories Scotland has been announced to mark 10 years of the reminiscence programme. Highlighted by Alzheimer Scotland, the initiative will include a recruitment drive to attract and train new volunteers so that they can support football reminiscence activity within a number of NHS GGC hospitals.

A quarter of over-75 deaths attributed to dementia in 2017 (England)

Dementia was a contributory or underlying cause of 25.5% deaths in over-75s in England in 2017, according to Public Health England figures. The statistics also showed that single, widowed or divorced people died in care homes far more frequently than people who were married or in a civil partnership.

Care Homes/Care at Home

Scottish Care appoints new Chair

Mary Preston has been appointed as the new Chair of Scottish Care. Ms Preston has a nursing background, as well as strategic, quality and operational management experience in care homes and care at home services.

Slides from Care at Home & Housing Support Conference available

Slides from presentations at the recent Care at Home & Housing Support Conference have been made available by Scottish Care. This year’s event took place in Glasgow on 17 May, with a theme of Redressing the balance: the potential of home care. Speakers included Care Inspectorate Chief Executive Peter Macleod.

Scottish Care highlights Rights Made Real in Care Homes project

Scottish Care has highlighted its involvement in the Rights Made Real in Care Homes project. Funded by Life Changes Trust, the project aims to make human rights a reality for those living with dementia in a care home. The project will work with the University of the West of Scotland and seven care home groups.
End of Life/Palliative Care

Study to improve end of life care access for black and Asian people (England)

A study to increase the number of black and Asian people using end of life care services has been launched, the BBC reports. A research team based at the Loros Hospice in Leicester will gather evidence from black and Asian patients, families, caregivers, and health professionals from across the Midlands over the next 30 months to develop national guidance to improve access. It is suggested that black and Asian patients are 20% less likely to seek palliative help than white counterparts.

Justice

Scottish Government responds to review of mental health support for young people in custody

Plans to address challenges raised by the independent review of mental health support for young people in custody have been announced by the Scottish Government. In a statement to Parliament, Justice Secretary Humza Yousaf announced a new action group to oversee progress against the recommendations made by the Expert Review of the Provision of Mental Health Services for young people entering and in custody at HMP YOI Polmont. In addition, the Health and Justice Collaboration Improvement Board is exploring how public bodies can make sure decisions are as fully informed as possible; a new Scottish Prison Service strategy for health and wellbeing is to be developed; and the National Suicide Prevention Risk Management Group is to develop a self-harm policy. My Yousaf also confirmed that concerns regarding information sharing between courts, social work, secure care units and the prison estate will be reflected on as part of the work.

Committee approves presumption against short sentences extension

The Presumption Against Short Periods of Imprisonment (Scotland) Order 2019 has been endorsed by a committee at the Scottish Parliament. The Justice Committee agreed the presumption against short sentences should be extended from three to 12 months. Conservative MSPs Margaret Mitchell and Liam Kerr opposed the move.

Learning Disability

Local learning disability strategy guidance launched by SCLD

Guidance, suggestions and questions for developing a local learning disability strategy has been launched by the Scottish Commission for Learning Disability (SCLD). The guidance, aimed at health and social care partnerships (HSCPs), local authorities and health boards, includes good practice examples and reflective questions co-produced with 12 HSCPs.

App on sexual health for young people with autism and learning disabilities

A new app to advise young people with learning disabilities and autism on sexual health has been launched. Be Safe Have Fun, developed by CKUK Common
Knowledge and the Scottish Drug Forum, guides young people over the age of 14 to ask themselves some questions before they get involved in any sexual activity.

**Older People**

**Charity calls for action to address housing shortage for older people**

Age Scotland has called for action to address the shortage of suitable housing for older people. The charity has highlighted National Records of Scotland figures showing that the number of households in Scotland rose to 2.48 million in 2018, driven partly by the increase in older people living alone, and that more than a third of households now consist of a single person, with an estimated 885,000 people living alone.

**Social Work**

**Procedure for transfer of adult social care cases under Ordinary Residence**

A procedure aiming to ensure a best practice model for the transfer of adult social care cases between authorities under Ordinary Residence has been published by Social Work Scotland. The procedure is intended to be applied in situations where an adult who has previously been supported by one local authority area and becomes Ordinarily Resident in a different area, resulting in the transfer of responsibility for care management and financing of their social care needs.

**Report from Social Work Scotland Annual Conference**

Social Work Scotland has published its Annual Conference Report for 2019. This year’s event took place across 12 – 13 June, with speakers including Health Secretary Jeane Freeman and Care Inspectorate Chief Executive Peter Macleod.

**Iriss highlights case studies to mark Refugee Week**

A series of case studies to mark Refugee Week (17 – 21 June) have been highlighted by Iriss. The case studies, produced to celebrate community social work in Scotland, explore issues such as asylum seeking young people and an Asylum and Roma Team anti-poverty initiative.

**Other Health and Social Care**

**Consultation on duty to notify police about human trafficking and exploitation**

A consultation on the duty to notify the police about victims of human trafficking or exploitation has been launched by the Scottish Government. Section 38 of the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Act 2015 places a duty on Scottish public authorities to notify the Chief Constable of Police Scotland about a person who is, or appears to be, a victim of a section 1 (human trafficking) or section 4 (slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour) offence. The consultation closes on 6 September.
Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy progress review published

A review of progress in implementing the Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy has been published by the Scottish Government. The Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Act 2015 required Ministers to develop and publish a Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy, which was subsequently published in 2017. The second annual report sets out progress in implementing the strategy in 2018 to 2019 and highlights a range of achievements in made across the action areas.

Regulators sign joint statement on reflective practice

Nine healthcare regulators have signed a joint statement to stress the benefits and importance of good reflective practice among professionals in the healthcare sector. Benefits of becoming a reflective practitioner, agreed by regulators such as the Nursing and Midwifery Council and General Medical Council, outlines the processes and advantages of good reflective practice for individuals and teams.

Call for evidence on proposed FGM legislation

A call for evidence on proposed legislation to protect women and girls from female genital mutilation (FGM) has been launched in the Scottish Parliament. The Female Genital Mutilation (Protection and Guidance) (Scotland) Bill will create a new FGM Protection Order and provide for Ministers to issue statutory guidance about FGM. The Equalities and Human Rights Committee is seeking initial views on the Bill by 30 August.

Over 70 advanced payments for survivors of abuse in care

Over 70 payments have been approved for survivors of abuse in care, the Scottish Government has confirmed. In total, 71 applications under the Advanced Payment Scheme have been now approved, with a further 52 applications being considered. Applicants will receive a flat-rate £10,000 payment under the scheme to provide acknowledgement for those who were abused in care in Scotland and who are terminally ill or aged 70 or over.

NHS Chief Executive and Director General of Health and Social Care appointed

Malcolm Wright has been appointed as Chief Executive of NHS Scotland and Director General of Health and Social Care at the Scottish Government. Mr Wright carried out the role on an interim basis since the departure of Paul Gray in February.

Concerns that domestic abuse information not being shared under GDPR

Less information about those who have committed or are affected by domestic abuse is being shared since the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) came into force, according to concerns reported by Third Force News. Groups such as Scottish Women’s Aid have raised concerns that there is a reluctance among police officers at Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences to share the level of information they did previously.
New statistics on school leaver destinations and education outcomes for LAC

New statistics on follow-up leaver destinations and education outcomes for looked after children (LAC) have been published by the Scottish Government. According to the figures, 93.2% of 2017/18 school leavers had a positive destination nine months after leaving school, while the proportion of looked after children in positive destinations nine months after leaving school was 76%.

Bill introduces duty of quality and citizen’s voice for health and social care (Wales)

A Bill introducing a duty of quality, duty of candour and Citizen Voice Body has been introduced by the Welsh Government. The Health and Social Care (Quality and Engagement) (Wales) Bill comes after the Parliamentary Review of Health and Social Care in Wales and, if passed, will become law in Summer 2020.

Other

Audit Scotland reports on enabling digital government in Scotland

A report on enabling digital government has been published by Audit Scotland. The report suggests good progress had been made on the ambition to spread digital working across government and public bodies have been helped to collaborate with UK tech companies. A new assurance framework has reduced the risks associated with past public sector IT projects, but a shortage of staff and digital skills has prevented lessons being shared as widely as they might’ve been.

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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