



Adult and Health



[Alcohol and Drugs](#)

[Alzheimer's/Dementia](#)

[Care Homes/Care at Home](#)

[Justice](#)

[Mental Health](#)

[Older People](#)

[Other Health & Social Care](#)

[Other](#)

Alcohol and Drugs

[Drug-related deaths rise by 27 per cent in Scotland](#)

There were 1,187 drug-related deaths registered in Scotland in 2018, representing a 27 per cent increase on 2017 and the largest number of deaths since records began in 1996. The new data from National Records of Scotland means the country's drug death rate is now nearly three times that of the UK as a whole and is higher than that reported for any other EU country. [The BBC reports](#) that the figures could mean Scotland has a higher drug death rate than the one reported for the USA, which was previously thought to be the highest rate in the world, when looking at number of deaths per million of the population. Last year, 72 per cent of those who died from drug-related causes were male and the vast majority of deaths involved heroin. However, a large percentage of people who died had also taken other pills such as diazepam and etizolam. The 35-44 age group was associated with the most deaths at 442, followed by those aged 45-54 (345). Minister for Public Health, Joe FitzPatrick, described the situation as an 'emergency' and drew attention to the new taskforce which will advise on the changes required in practice or in law to reduce harm.



Alzheimer's/Dementia

[Study suggests physical activity could lead to slower cognitive decline](#)

The Alzheimer's Society is highlighting a study published in JAMA Neurology that suggest that physical activity may protect against cognitive decline and the build-up of amyloid beta protein, a hallmark of Alzheimer's disease. Dr James Pickett, Head of Research at Alzheimer's Society, is quoted as saying that, "This study adds to previous research showing that people who are more active have a slower reduction in their memory and thinking skills as they get older, lose fewer brain cells, and have less amyloid, a hallmark of Alzheimer's disease, in their brain"

Care Homes/Care at Home

Care Home Celebration Day

Scottish Care has published a number of blogs to for Care Home Celebration Day, including a [showcase of awards winners](#), the [development of a Human Rights Charter for Technology and Digital](#), [changing practice on designing care homes](#), and a blog by Theresa Fyffe, Director of RCN Scotland, on her perspective on the [importance of Scotland's care homes and their nurses](#).

Justice

[Inspection highlights impact of prison staffing shortage](#)

The BBC reports on an inspection report of HMP and YOI Grampian in Peterhead, highlighting concerns about the recruitment and retention of staff at the facility. HM Chief Inspector of Prisons for Scotland, Wendy Sinclair-Gieben, said in her report that the establishment had matured but that all areas of the prison were negatively impact by staffing shortages. The shortage of healthcare staff was noted as a particular area of concern. Elsewhere, the report identified the preparation of prisoners for their return to the community as the strongest area of performance.

[Call for views on renewed strategic priorities for policing](#)

A Scottish Government consultation on Strategic Police Priorities has begun. Views are being sought on proposals for the long-term overarching framework for Police Scotland and the Scottish Police Authority. The priorities are being updated to reflect developments in operational delivery and are focused on anticipated future demands of the service. The Scottish Government is inviting evidence on six new Strategic Police Priorities: crime and security; confidence and public trust; partnership; sustainability; people and workforce; and an evidence-based approach.

Mental Health

[Mental Welfare Commission reports on recommendations made over the last year](#)

The Mental Welfare Commission has published a report about the recommendations made on its local visits to hospital wards, units and prisons in 2018. They carried out



107 visits, the majority being announced, and published a report after each visit with recommendations for improvement. The largest number of recommendations related to care planning, review, and person-centred care, at 28%, the environment in which people were being treated was the second highest reason for a recommendation for improvement, at 14%.

Older People

[Group publishes findings on intergenerational connections](#)

The All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Social Integration at the UK Parliament has published a report on the co-location of nurseries and care homes. The report examines the need for intergenerational care to bridge the gap between older and young people. MPs made recommendations for all nurseries, schools and care homes to foster connections between the different generations that use their facilities and, where possible, to co-locate services on one site. Other recommendations include small tax breaks for people who volunteer at a nursery, school or care home. The APPG will continue its inquiry and publish a final report at the end of the year.

Other Health and Social Care

[MSPs to consider effectiveness of social prescribing](#)

A Scottish Parliament inquiry into social prescribing of physical activity and sport has been launched, to complement a wider investigation into primary care. The Health and Sport Committee is seeking submissions on the ability of social prescribing to tackle physical and mental wellbeing issues across Scotland. MSPs are particularly interested in the barriers to effective social prescribing, the role of health professionals in referrals and ensuring social prescribing initiatives are monitored and evaluated.

[Social services podcast series given makeover](#)

Iriss has announced that its free Iriss.fm podcast series has been given a new look, and is now available via Spotify, Apple Store and Google. Iriss.fm is Scotland's longest running social services podcast and episodes cover research, projects, events and interviews with key people in the sector. Transcripts for each episode are also available.

[Nominations for 'Integrated Care Award'](#)

Healthcare Improvement Scotland is sponsoring the 'Integrated Care Award' category at the Scottish Health Awards, which celebrates the high quality, co-ordinated health and social care that helps the people of Scotland. They are encouraging people to nominate a team or individual who delivers outstanding person-centred, effective health and social care, before the closing date of 29 August 2019.



[Using new technology in health and social care \(England\)](#)

The Care Quality Commission has published a new resource of examples from across health and social care of how providers have used new technologies. The new resource aims to start a constructive discussion around how services are doing things differently, ranging from apps that help people to take more control of their care, to digital systems for sharing care records, and what that means for people and regulation.

Other

[Appointment of new SSSC Convener](#)

A new Convener for the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has been appointed. The Minister for Children and Young People, Maree Todd MSP has announced the appointment of Alexandra Graham Campbell as Convener, to replace the current Convener Professor Jim McGoldrick in September.

[Care Inspectorate quarterly statistical report](#)

The Care Inspectorate Statistical Summary Report for Quarter 1 of 2019/20 has now been released. This presents data on the number of registered care services, new registrations and cancellations, complaints about care services and quality theme grades all by care service type and or service sector. This is updated on a quarterly basis.

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.

It should also be noted that the Care Inspectorate has no liability in respect of the content of external websites which may be signposted on this site.