Alzheimer’s/Dementia

Support for dementia practitioners to engage with European communities

The Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations (ACVO) has launched two new toolkits to support health and social care practitioners and communities engage with ethnic minorities with dementia. The resources were created after ACVO completed the European Communities Dementia Support Project, the ALLIANCE reports. A toolkit for practitioners provides practical checklists for professionals from all sectors supporting people across Aberdeen. The communities toolkit is designed to help people access support for families, carers and friends supporting someone with a dementia diagnosis. This toolkit is available in English, Polish, Spanish and Russian.
Care Homes/Care at Home

Care homes urged to get online

The UK Government has called on every care home to ensure WiFi is available for their residents, after a survey by carehome.co.uk found 16 per cent of care workers don’t know if there is available internet in their care home. A fifth of care workers said their care homes had no WiFi at all, and of those care homes that do have connectivity, access to the service was mixed. Minister for Care, Caroline Dineage, said ensuring every care home is online would allow residents to stay connected with family and friends, reduce the impact of loneliness, support independence and encourage younger family to visit their relatives in the care home.

Mental Health

New website for Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland

The Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland (MWCS) has updated its website, making it easier for users to access resources for either personal or professional use. The website now includes a ‘What People Tell Us’ section including reports outlining the views and experiences of people who have spoken to the MWCS team about different aspects of care and treatment.

Other Health and Social Care

Event to explore improvement activity in care

The Institute for Research and Innovation in Social Services (Iriss) has highlighted a free event hosted by the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) for workers in the sector who lead improvement activity. Iriss, SSSC and the Care Inspectorate will explore how they support people’s learning so that improvement activity can be promoted by leaders within their services. Those attending will be invited to share their own learning and examples, and also take part in discussions on topics such as practice guidance, improvement learning support groups and simple improvement techniques. The event will be held in Perth on 28 August.

Peter Macleod appointed Chair of TEC Programme Board

The Chief Executive of the Care Inspectorate, Peter Macleod, has been appointed Chair of the Technology Enabled Care (TEC) Programme Board. The TEC Programme was set up in 2014 in response to the need for service transformation due to rising demand for health and social care services. The aim of the Programme is to drive deployment at a local level, alongside national initiatives, to ensure Scotland leads the way in innovative approaches to technology-enabled care.

Nutrition and hydration resource for people with learning disabilities

A new resource is under development for social care providers on good practice in food and drink provision for people with learning disabilities using care services. Lancaster University is working with the Voluntary Organisations Disability Group on
‘Good Food Matters’ which aims to tackle health issues caused by poor nutrition and hydration. The resource recognises the need for change in organisational cultures and personal attitudes in care services to ensure a long-term commitment in improving practice, and includes dietary information about how food can impact conditions such as epilepsy, obesity and dysphagia.

**Petition on action to tackle social care (England)**

The BBC reports on a letter and petition organised by the NHS Confederation, which leads the Health for Care Alliance of 15 national health organisations in England, calling for action to tackle the issues in social care. The letter calls for:

- a plan with cross-party involvement
- a long-term financial settlement
- short-term money to shore up services this year
- support for a wider range of people

**Other**

**Review of Scotland’s population and demographic trends**

The latest statistics on Scotland’s population and demographic trends have been published by the Registrar General. The data confirms that life expectancy has increased over the past three decades but has stalled in recent years, a trend seen across all UK countries. However, Scotland continues to have the lowest life expectancy in the UK. Meanwhile the number of deaths increased last year, with the leading cause of death reported as ischaemic heart disease, closely followed by dementia and Alzheimer’s disease which accounted for 11.1 per cent of deaths.

**CQC trials regulatory sandbox approach (England)**

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has invited NHS providers and services using digital clinical triage to join its Regulatory Sandbox. The regulator is trialling ‘sandboxing’ to encourage innovation, quality and safety and allow providers to work with CQC to look at how new ways of working fit with regulation. The first round of ‘sandboxing’ will look at digital clinical triage, with other themes to follow later in the year. The CQC said it also wants to develop how it assesses new services and give clarity about how it might register new or disruptive types of provider.
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.