

Adult
and
Health



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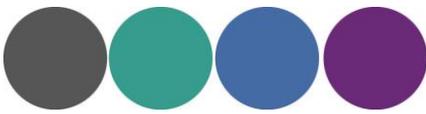
Alcohol and Drugs

[First meeting of Taskforce to be in September](#)

The new Taskforce set up to address drug deaths in Scotland will meet for the first time in September. The Taskforce will examine the main causes of drug deaths, will promote action to improve health outcomes for people who use drugs, and will advise what changes, in practice or in the law, could help save lives. The expert group will also consider the impact of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 on taking a public health approach to this emergency, including proposals to provide harm reduction services, such as medically supervised overdose prevention rooms.

[Concerns about use of electronic cigarettes](#)

A study published in the Journal of Clinical Investigation, 'Electronic cigarettes disrupt lung lipid homeostasis and innate immunity independent of nicotine', suggests that e-cigarettes can disrupt normal lung function and raise the risk of infection. Examining the effects on mice over four months of smoke exposure compared to electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS), the study suggests that whilst mice receiving ENDS failed to develop pulmonary inflammation or emphysema compared to smoke exposure, they did show that "chronic e-cigarette vapor aberrantly alters the physiology of lung epithelial cells and resident immune cells and promotes poor response to infectious challenge." The study concludes that more extensive investigations of the solvents used in e-cigarettes are needed.



Alzheimer's/Dementia

[Dementia Friends tour to raise awareness and reduce stigma](#)

Alzheimer Scotland aims to mark World Alzheimer's Day in September by embarking on a Dementia Friends tour to reach 90,000 people, raise awareness of dementia and reduce the stigma. The tour will visit ten locations across Scotland to deliver sessions with facts about dementia, the difference between different types of dementia, how dementia can affect a person, and the small changes we can all make to improve the quality of life for a person living with dementia.

End of Life/Palliative Care

[Many patients suffer pain at end of life](#)

A new report has highlighted the pain experienced by some terminally ill people towards the end of their life, the BBC reports. The assisted death campaign group, Dignity in Dying, interviewed terminally-ill patients and bereaved families, as well as GPs, palliative care consultants and nurses as part of the research report titled "The Inescapable Truth About Dying in Scotland". The group said eleven terminally ill people suffer in pain as they die and even with high levels of palliative care, hundreds of patients still had no pain relief at the end of life. As part of research commissioned for the report, the Office of Health Economics concluded that "even if every dying person who needed it had access to the level of care currently provided in hospices, 591 people in Scotland a year would still have no relief of their pain in the final three months of their life".

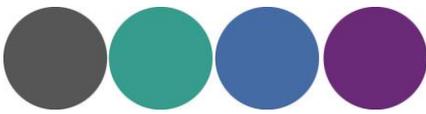
Mental Health

[Latest stage of consultation on mental health legislation](#)

Stage 3 of the independent review of learning disability and autism in the Mental Health Act has begun, the ALLIANCE reports. The group is consulting on possible changes to the law, to ensure it protects people with a learning disability or autism and their human rights. The review seeks views on a range of ideas for future mental health law for autistic people and people with learning disability. They suggest a learning disability should no longer be seen as a mental disorder but as a disability. The consultation will explore how decisions can be made with respect for each person's rights, will and preferences and look at potential reforms for offenders with autism or learning disabilities. Stage 3 of the consultation will run until 1 November.

[Funding for new mother mental health support announced](#)

Plans to put £1 million into mental health support for new mothers have been announced by the Scottish Government, as part of wider plans to invest £50 million in perinatal mental health services. The initial investment will support the third sector to provide counselling, befriending and peer support for women and their families. The Government wants to ensure new and expectant mothers have more consistent access to psychological assessment and treatment. Money will also be used to increase staffing and training and Mother and Baby Units.



Older People

[Campaign to encourage use of power of attorney](#)

The Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (the ALLIANCE) is highlighting a campaign by Health and Social Care Scotland, 'People like You', encouraging families to arrange power of attorney over family members to ensure their wishes are protected in the event of serious illness or accident. The ALLIANCE is encouraging people to start by having a conversation with someone they trust to take action on their behalf should the need arise, and to make sure the person is happy to be their Attorney and that he/she understands their wishes.

Other Health and Social Care

[Guidance on accessing the Flexible Workforce Development Fund](#)

The Scottish Funding Council has released guidance for apprenticeship levy-paying employers in Scotland who want to access the Flexible Workforce Development Fund (FWDF) in the 2019-2020 academic year. The fund is open to employers who pay the apprenticeship levy and an organisation can make one claim per year.

[Major report on social care published ahead of Spending Review \(England\)](#)

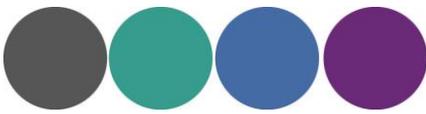
Age UK has published its latest report on health and social care for older people in England, highlighting the need for "a long term plan with the funding to match" for social care. The report was published ahead of the UK Government's Spending Review which was announced this week. In the report, Age UK sets out the challenges facing older people who need social care and the impact growing pressure is having on the NHS and the care market as a whole. Key findings include:

- the total amount of home care in England delivered has gone down by 3 million hours between 2015 and 2018
- in 2018 alone Directors of Adult Social Services in 58 local authorities reported at least one care home closure, and nearly a third reported seeing home care providers cease trading
- turnover in the social care workforce was estimated at 30.7 per cent each year

Other

[Scottish Government sets out Programme for Government 2019-20](#)

The Scottish Government has published its policy and legislative programme for the next year. Legislation to be introduced includes a Bill to establish a financial redress scheme for survivors of historical child abuse whilst in care, and legislation to maintain alignment with EU law in devolved areas after Brexit. Also included in the Programme is a taking forward the recommendations of the Children and Young People's Mental Health Taskforce; steps to increase the pace of health and social care integration (including improved strategic inspection); updated GIRFEC policy



and guidance documents; investment in the Access to Childcare Fund; and a range of actions in advance of the outcome of the Independent Care Review.

[New Bill to strengthen family law and regulate child contact centres](#)

A new Bill designed to strengthen the family law system and to ensure the best interests of children are at the centre of contact and residence cases has been introduced to the Scottish Parliament. The Scottish Government's Children (Scotland) Bill includes a range of measures, including the objective to regulate child contact centres and appoint a body to oversee standards. The Care Inspectorate is undertaking a feasibility study in relation to taking on this responsibility. Other measures in the proposed Bill include amending the Looked After Children (Scotland) Regulations 2009 to put a duty on local authorities to place siblings under 18 years of age together when they are looked after away from home.

[Family Justice Modernisation Strategy launched](#)

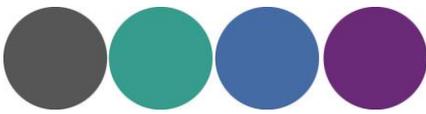
The Scottish Government has also published a Family Justice Modernisation Strategy, along with evidence on the effectiveness of integrated domestic abuse courts (IDACs). The Strategy sets out ongoing work done to improve the operation of family justice, work to be taken forward through the Children (Scotland) Bill and longer term ambitions.

[Consultation opened on payment scheme for abuse survivors](#)

The Scottish Government is consulting on the design of the statutory financial redress scheme for survivors of historical child abuse in care. Their proposals suggest those responsible for the abuse of children in care should make financial contributions to the new redress scheme. The Government also proposes a two-stage payment approach, comprising a flat rate payment, with the option of applying for an additional payment reflecting the nature and severity of abuse and the lifelong impact on survivors. The consultation seeks views on creating a new public body to administer the scheme and an independent panel to decide on applications. Proposals are made in the document to define 'historical abuse' as abuse which took place prior to 1 December 2004. The consultation closes on 25 November.

[SPICe briefing on Disclosure \(Scotland\) Bill](#)

A briefing on proposed legislation to improve the disclosure regime in Scotland has been published by the Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe). The Disclosure (Scotland) Bill contains a range of measures, including reducing the four main levels of disclosure to two; a mandatory PVG Scheme for people working with vulnerable groups; and replacing the concept of 'doing regulated work' with a list of core activities giving rise to 'regulated roles' that trigger mandatory PVG membership. The SPICe briefing sets out the context for the Bill and provides a detailed summary of its provisions.



Workforce

[BASW launches anti-poverty practice guide for social workers](#)

An anti-poverty practice guide has been launched by the British Association of Social Workers (BASW). The guide is designed to support the practice of social workers when working with people living in poverty, sharing knowledge acquired from researchers, professionals, and families and communities.

[Free representation for SSSC registered workers in Strathclyde](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) is working with the University of Strathclyde Law Clinic to help SSSC registered workers in Strathclyde access free representation when they are involved in fitness to practise investigations and hearings. SSSC also works with the Aberdeen Law Project and Fife Law Centre to make the fitness to practise process more accessible for workers in their local area.

[SSSC to host cyber resilience events](#)

The SSSC is running two events to share information about cyber risks and resilience in the health and social care environment. Supported by the Scottish Government, the events will take place in Edinburgh (16 September) and Perth (18 September), and are aimed at managers, supervisors and learning and development professionals.

[SSSC addresses confusion around modern apprentices and SSSC registration](#)

The SSSC has moved to address apparent confusion about whether apprentices need to register with them. If they work in a role that requires SSSC registration, apprentices must register for that role, which is a separate registration from the apprenticeship registration, also managed by the SSSC.

[Iriss workshop to 'get your message noticed'](#)

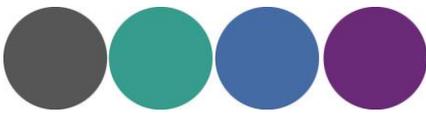
A Hands on Workshop (HOW) to help social service workers "get your message noticed" is to be hosted by Iriss. The workshop will cover subjects such as: how to communicate with impact and how to make sure messages are understood and acted on. The event will take place in Edinburgh on 25 September.

[Iriss 'evidence café' for social workers](#)

Iriss is to host an 'evidence café' for social workers in Glasgow on 3 October. The theme of the event will be the Evidence Search and Summary Service Outline 'Newly qualified social workers, supervision and child protection'.

[Cross party group publishes report on social care workers \(England\)](#)

A report on the professionalisation of social care workers in the UK has been published by the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Social Care at Westminster. Among the recommendations is a call for the formation of a governing national care



body, comprised of service providers, commissioners, trade unions and service user and carer groups. Within this recommendation is the suggestion that it should work in collaboration the Care Quality Commission (CQC) to define a “fully agreed matrix of recognised compatibility standards between England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland”.

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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