Alcohol and Drugs

Minimum unit pricing may have contributed to drop in alcohol-related deaths in Glasgow

Glasgow saw a significant reduction in alcohol-related deaths between 2017 and 2018, which could be attributed to the introduction of minimum unit pricing (MUP), according to researchers. The British Association for the Study of the Liver found that there was a 21.5% reduction in alcohol-related deaths in Glasgow from 2017 to 2018 (186 to 146), while 44% in 2018 occurred before May, when MUP was introduced.

Drug Deaths Taskforce meets for the first time

Members of the new Drug Deaths Taskforce has met for the first time in Edinburgh. The group is chaired by Professor Catriona Matheson of the University of Stirling with the ambition of examining the main causes of drug deaths and promoting action to improve health outcomes for people who use drugs. It was confirmed that three additional members have been appointed to the Taskforce, all of whom have lived experience of drug use.

Alzheimer’s/Dementia

Winners of Dementia Awards announced

The winners of Scotland’s Dementia Awards have been announced at a ceremony in Glasgow. The Awards, led by Alzheimer Scotland,
NHS Education for Scotland and the Scottish Social Services Council, celebrate the achievements of those individuals making a difference for people living with dementia and their families across health, social service and community settings.

**Scottish Care blog on dementia and privacy**

A blog on the issue or privacy in relation to people living with dementia has been published on the Scottish Care website. Written by Policy & Human Rights Project Worker Verity Monaghan, the article touches on what privacy means in the context of care homes and how the issue has been discussed in relation to the Rights Made Real in Care Homes Project.

**Events to support plans for Dementia Inclusive Choir network**

Scottish Care has announced a series of events taking place as part of plans for a Dementia Inclusive Choir network. The network, being developed in partnership with Luminate, aims to ensure that people who are living with dementia and their carers are able to sing in choirs in their local area. Come and Sing and Dementia Inclusive Training events will take place in Stornoway (September) and Dumfries (October).

**Highland care home to collaborate with charity on music therapy project**

A Highland care home is partnering with a charity to use music therapy to support people living with dementia, Care Appointments reports. Music as Therapy International will train staff at Invernevis House in Fort William to use simple musical techniques and activities, providing them with resources and professional support to make sustainable change. The project will run for six weeks.

**Care Homes/Care at Home**

**Fife care provider shuts down with immediate effect**

A Kirkcaldy care provider has shut down with immediate effect, The Courier reports. In an email to staff, Paramount Care said the decision had been taken due to financial issues and alleged issues in relation to payments from Fife Council.

**CQC invites expressions of interest in latest ‘sandboxing’ activity (England)**

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has invited expressions of interest in the second wave of activity around ‘sandboxing’. The second wave will explore supporting personal assistants and how the regulator can work with others to align new ways of working with regulation.

**IPPR report maps care home places by poor CQC grades (England)**

A report by the Institute of Public Policy Research (IPPR) has mapped care home places in services rated as inadequate or requiring improvement in England, the BBC reports. According to the report, over a third of beds were in settings rated by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) as not good enough in a sixth of areas. Overall, 23% of the 456,000 beds were in settings rated inadequate or requiring
improvement, with 26 local authorities having more than a third of beds in such settings. The IPPR has suggested the analysis indicates a ‘failing market’ and a sector that requires investment and reform.

Health

Celebrations to mark 100 years of professional nursing begin

Celebrations to mark 100 years since the establishment of the Nurses Registration Act 1919 have begun. The Nursing and Midwifery Council is marking the centenary with a celebration around the theme of ‘Always caring, always nursing’, with 100 days of activities and events planned over the Autumn.

First Chief Executive of Public Health Scotland appointed

Angela Leitch has been appointed as the first Chief Executive of Public Health Scotland. Ms Leitch, Chief Executive of East Lothian Council, will lead the national public health body, which will be Scotland’s lead national agency for improving and protecting health and wellbeing when it is fully established by April 2020.

Annual statistics on delayed discharge published by ISD Scotland

An annual summary of delayed discharge statistics for 2018-19 has been published by ISD Scotland. According to the statistics, there was an increase of 6% in delayed discharges from the previous year, with approximately one in 12 beds occupied by people who were delayed in their discharge. It is estimated that the cost of delayed discharge in NHS Scotland over 2017/18 was £122m. Among a number of reasons for delay were completion of care arrangements and awaiting place availability.

World Patient Safety Day

World Patient Safety Day took place on 17 September. Organised by the World Health Organization (WHO), the annual event recognises the scale of avoidable harm linked with medical errors across the world.

Public Health England publishes five-year infectious diseases strategy (England)

A new five-year infectious diseases strategy has been published by Public Health England, as highlighted by Health Protection Scotland. The strategy aims to address urgent current and future threats to health, including antibiotic resistance and health inequalities. The new strategy outlines work to combat infectious diseases and sets out strategic priorities for the five-year period of 2020 to 2025.

Justice

Minutes from recent Health and Justice Collaboration Board meetings

Minutes from recent meetings of the Health and Justice Collaboration Board have been published by the Scottish Government. The meetings took place in December 2018 and June 2019.
Mental Health

**Common antidepressant may reduce anxiety more than depression, study finds**

A common antidepressant may reduce anxiety more than depression, according to a study by University College London. The research, published in *The Lancet Psychiatry*, found that participants who took sertraline were twice as likely as those who took a placebo to say their mental health had improved overall. However, the drug did not appear to improve depressive symptoms, which include low mood, loss of pleasure and poor concentration, within six weeks. There was weak evidence that sertraline reduced depressive symptoms by 12 weeks.

Older People

**Hearing aids can reduce dementia, depression and falls risk, study finds**

Hearing aids can reduce the risk of dementia, depression and serious falls in people over the age of 66, according to a new study led by Michigan University. Published in the *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*, the research found that those who wore hearing aids within three years of being diagnosed with hearing loss were 18% less likely to go on to develop dementia compared to those who failed to wear them. The risk of falls fell by 13% and the risk of depression by 11%.

**UK Government announces funding for healthy ageing ideas**

The UK Government has made £40m available to develop ideas that could help people enjoy healthier and more active lives in older age. Through the Healthy Ageing Challenge, businesses and public sector organisations are being encouraged to share ideas on how projects that support people as they age could be scaled up.

**Inspectorate publishes review of integrated care for falls (Wales)**

A review of integrated care for falls among people over 65 has been published by Care Inspectorate Wales. The review includes eight recommendations, including national deployment of a high-level standardised framework of best practice for falls.

Other Health and Social Care

**New self-evaluation guide for care services**

The Care Inspectorate has published a new guide for care services undertaking self-evaluation. We want to empower services to evaluate their own performance, and self-evaluation can be a powerful tool to identify what’s working well and to support improvement. This guide helps services across all care settings understand how they can do that.

**Guidance on Human Rights Charter for Technology and Digital in Social Care**

A guidance document setting out the principles that should be followed when using technology in care has been published by Scottish Care. The document, developed
as part of work on a Human Rights Charter for Technology and Digital in Social Care, explores each principle individually and suggests how each can be used to support the human rights of individuals and communities in the use of technology and digital in social care.

National Accommodation Strategy for Sex Offenders published

A National Accommodation Strategy for Sex Offenders has been published by the Scottish Government. The strategy forms part of the Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) and outlines out how housing contributes to those arrangements. The document sets out the arrangements and roles of local authorities and Registered Social Landlords when offenders, subject to the sex offender notification requirements, seek housing in the social rented sector. It focuses on assessing and managing the risks that sex offenders under MAPPA may pose by living in a particular community, location and property.

Scottish Care highlights Care Inspectorate Quality Conversations

Scottish Care has highlighted the opportunity to take part in the Care Inspectorate’s Quality Conversations. The discussion forum allows executive and senior teams to connect meaningfully and productively with peers across the care sector, and help shape and inform the work that the Care Inspectorate does. There are spaces available for events in Perth on 13 November.

New Careers in Care website launched

A new website providing advice on undertaking a career in social services has been officially launched by the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC). Careers in Care provides information and advice, including career stories, qualification pathways, links to opportunities and FAQs.

EQUIP Care preview event on 26 September

Quality Scotland is hosting a free event in Edinburgh on 26 September to preview its EQUIP Care tool. The tool is designed to align the EFQM Excellence Model with new Care Inspectorate frameworks and the Health and Social Care Standards.

Call for increase in financial regulation to address private provision reliance (England)

IPPR has called for an increase in the financial regulation of care providers to address sustainability issues caused by the growing reliance on private provision. In a paper on the ‘financialisation of adult social care’, the think tank suggests “potential linkages between ownership and quality” and calls for action to “arrest the growth of debt-fuelled private providers in social care”. Among a number of recommendations, the report calls for the creation of “a powerful national financial care regulator”.

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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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