



# Adult and Health



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## Alcohol and Drugs

### [MPs call for drug decriminalisation and safe consumption rooms](#)

The Scottish Affairs Committee has published its report on problem drug use in Scotland, which calls for the decriminalisation of drug use and major reform of the UK Government's approach to drugs policy. In the report, the Committee's MPs highlighted the rise in drug-related deaths in Scotland and suggest decriminalising the possession of small amounts of drugs for personal use would allow policing resources to be focused on the supply chain and other funding could go towards treatment. The report also addresses safe drug consumption facilities and argue for legislation to be brought forward to allow such a facility in Glasgow, which was previously blocked by the Home Office.

### [Link between smoking and mental ill health found](#)

A study led by the University of Bristol has led to new evidence on the link between smoking and the risk of depression and schizophrenia. The Scotsman reports that UK Biobank data was analysed through a method which uses genetic variants associated with exposure to support stronger conclusions about cause and effect relationships. The study found tobacco smoking increased risk of depression and schizophrenia, but also that depression and schizophrenia increase the likelihood of smoking.



## **Alzheimer's/Dementia**

### [Director of Brain Health Scotland appointed](#)

Alzheimer Scotland has announced the appointment of Professor Craig Ritchie as Director of Brain Health Scotland, due to formally launch in April 2002. Brain Health Scotland will provide expert advice, coordination and contributions to a future Brain Health Strategy for Scotland. Funded by the Scottish Government, it will also involve the Scottish Dementia Research Consortium, Scottish Dementia Working Group, National Dementia Carers Action Network, along with other key stakeholders. Professor Craig Ritchie is also Director of the Centre for Dementia Prevention and Professor of Psychiatry of Ageing at the University of Edinburgh.

## **Care Homes/Care at Home**

### [Report raises concerns about care of ethnic minority older people](#)

Scottish Care and Trust Housing have published the latest Care Cameo in its ongoing series. The Care Cameo is a programme of papers by care professionals designed to create a debate on issues related to the delivery of care and support for older people. The latest publication focuses on the physical, emotional, cultural and spiritual care needs of ethnic minority older people. It highlights issues such as lack of appropriate accommodation and support which the authors suggest is leaving many older ethnic minority people isolated. Cases in the report highlight a lack of interpretation services for older people who cannot speak English and the need to provide more advice to people who may be entitled to benefits they are unaware of.

### [Improvement Notice served by Care Inspectorate to care home](#)

The Care Inspectorate has served a formal Improvement Notice on Livingston Nursing Home in West Lothian, after a number of serious concerns were raised in an inspection. The notice lists seven areas which require urgent improvement, including putting in place consistent, good quality and effective management and leadership to guide and direct staff working across the service and improve the quality of care being delivered. They must also ensure suitably qualified and competent staff are working in the care service at all times to meet the health, well-being and safety needs of residents. And they must record any accidents appropriately and ensure that appropriate authorities, including the Care Inspectorate, are notified.

## **End of Life/Palliative Care**

### [New end of life and palliative care CPD award](#)

Scottish Care has highlighted a new continuing professional development award for health and social care workers on palliative and end of life care developed by the University of the Highlands and Islands. The award will provide candidates with the knowledge and skills base set out in the NHS Education for Scotland Palliative and End of Life Framework for staff who regularly provide care and support to people with palliative and end of life care needs, their families and carers. The course is delivered fully online and the first presentation will start in January 2020.



## **Mental Health**

### [MPs call for reform to mental health hospital inspections](#) (England)

The UK Parliament's Joint Committee on Human Rights has published a report calling for an overhaul of inspections of mental health services and changes to the Mental Health Act, to better protect young people with learning disabilities and autism who are detained in mental health hospitals. The report outlines proposals for "substantive reform" of the approach and processes used by the Care Quality Commission in its inspections of mental health hospitals, including unannounced inspections at weekends and the late evening and the use of covert surveillance to better inform inspection judgements. The Committee also suggested the law should be changed to narrow the Mental Health Act to avoid inappropriate detention and create legal duties to ensure the right services are available.

### [Survey on ambulance service and mental health support](#)

The Scottish Ambulance Service is working with See Me, the national programme to end mental health stigma and discrimination, to develop their new mental health strategy. The ALLIANCE reports that a [survey](#) has been launched to gather the public's opinions and experiences of the Ambulance Service and how they support the mental health of people they work with. The Scottish Ambulance Service said it wants to ensure the strategy reflects its approach which is "person-centred, safe and effective, quality and outcome focussed, collaborative, fair and equitable, and value driven".

## **Other Health and Social Care**

### [Evaluation report published on Housing Solutions](#)

The Scottish Government has highlighted the evaluation of the Housing Solutions change programme, carried out by Healthcare Improvement Scotland between March 2018 and March 2019. The report focuses on the work carried out to jointly train practitioner trainers from health and social care partnerships and housing partners, so that they then have the skills and knowledge to then deliver the training programme within their own locations. Housing Solutions aims to empower people to explore at a much earlier stage the types of solutions that may be best for them and tries to avoid crisis situations and service responses. The report highlights emerging evidence that the approach is effecting change in terms of inter-agency staff attitudes and behaviours around the housing agenda, and delivering effective outcomes for people around their longer term housing needs.

### [Winter funding for NHS](#)

Funding for the health service in Scotland has been announced ahead of expected winter pressures. The Scottish Government said £10 million will be invested to help reduce hospital attendances where possible, by managing care closer to home for those with long-term conditions and minor injuries. People will also be encouraged to use their community pharmacy and there will be more support to direct patients to



the best service for their needs. Health boards have been allocated the funding to ensure appropriate levels of staffing are in place and to help discharge patients over weekends and holiday periods when they are fit to go home.

#### [NHS Highland advised to redesign services](#)

Audit Scotland has published a report on NHS Highland. The Auditor General has raised concerns about the board's capacity to make the "urgent and major" changes required to address a range of issues, including considerable overspend on drugs and social care, rising staffing costs and continuing difficulties recruiting staff. The report also notes the health board required Scottish Government loans to meet its financial targets in 2018/19.

#### [New guidelines on care for people living with HIV](#)

The Care Inspectorate has published new guidance for social care services for supporting people living with HIV. The guidelines were launched at an event hosted by HIV Scotland following joint work by the Care Inspectorate and National AIDS Trust to provide information for inspectors of care services to assess whether the needs of people living with HIV are being met. The event in Edinburgh brought together social care providers from across Scotland to discuss what needs to be done to ensure social care services best support an ageing population of people living with HIV.

#### [Inspector guidance on closed cultures](#)

The Care Quality Commission has published supporting information for inspectors about how to identify and respond to closed cultures in services. The information explains that closed cultures may put more people at risk of abuse and human rights breaches. It also includes risk factors and warning signs of closed cultures. The information has been released following the exposure of abuse at Whorlton Hall by the BBC this year. The CQC has also shared the guidance with Mental Health Act Reviewers and their managers.

#### [Annual audit reports for IJBs](#)

Audit Scotland has published annual audit reports for all Integrated Joint Boards. The reports summarise the findings of the 2018/19 IJB audits and are presented to those charged with governance and the Controller of Audit. The reports also provide a review of the IJBs' arrangements for governance and transparency, financial management, financial sustainability and value for money.

#### [Audit Scotland report on NHS Tayside](#)

A report by Audit Scotland has shown some improvements have been made in financial management and governance at NHS Tayside, but warns the health board still faces some financial and operational challenges. The report highlights NHS Tayside will continue to need financial assistance to balance its budget until 2021/22 and suggests overspending by the board in staffing costs and referring patients outwith the Tayside area.



## **Other**

### [Incorporation of human rights event – 19 November 2019](#)

An event on the future of human rights in Scotland is due to take place on Tuesday 19 November. The University of Edinburgh is hosting the event with the Human Rights Consortium Scotland, Amnesty International and Together, and will focus on how international human rights law could work in Scots Law through incorporation. Civil society organisations are invited to take part in a broad discussion on incorporation and hear from experts in the field.

### [SPSO publishes annual report](#)

The Scottish Public Services Ombudsman (SPSO) has published Annual Report: Performance Report 2018-19. The report reflects on the SPSO's recent work including the handling of over 4,000 complains and 1,160 recommendations for redress and improvement to public services. The report states that 68 per cent of complaints were about the health sector and also reflects on its review of the Model Complaints Handling Procedure to improve public sector complaints handling.

### [General Election guidance for civil servants issued](#)

Guidance on the conduct of civil servants relating to the UK General Election on 12 December has been published by the Scottish Government. According to the guidance, civil servants should not undertake any activity which could call into question their political impartiality or give rise to the criticism that public resources are being used for party political purposes. Application of this principle needs to be considered particularly carefully during election periods.

## **Workforce**

### [Update on SSSC post registration and learning review](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has published an update on its review of the post registration training and learning process. It is currently gathering feedback on the current progress and hearing from registrants on their experiences to inform the design of a new approach to meet the needs of the increasingly diverse workforce. The findings of a survey on continuous learning have been published and show 90 per cent of people agree the new system should allow registrants more flexibility in how they record their learning. Meanwhile 88 per cent agreed registrants should submit a short verification form rather than their whole record of learning to the SSSC. The SSSC is now developing the new system which will be tested with a small group of participants in early 2020 before launching next autumn.

### [Learning resource for professionals working with carers updated](#)

The Equal Partners in Care (EPiC) resource has been updated by SSSC and NHS Education for Scotland. EPiC is a learning resource for use by health and social care staff and helps them have better conversations and interactions with carers. Its core



principles are based on six key outcomes for carers and young carers, support workforce education and learning and promote consistent understanding of how to work effectively with carers.

### **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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