Dementia Friends landmark celebrated

Alzheimer Scotland is celebrating the news that 90,000 people have now become Dementia Friends. The initiative is designed to raise awareness of dementia and reduce stigma, with Dementia Friends understanding more about dementia and the small things they can do to help people living with dementia.

UK dementia social care cost to treble in next two decades, finds charity-commissioned study

The cost for the UK of social care for people with dementia will nearly treble over the next two decades, according to a report produced by London School of Economics and Political Science for the Alzheimer's Society. The research report suggests that, while the number of people with dementia in the UK is expected to nearly double to 1.6 million people by 2040, the cost of dementia social care will rise from £15.7bn today to £45.4bn in 20 years. The total cost of dementia, including the NHS, paid social care and unpaid care, will rise from £34.7bn to £94.1bn over the same period, according to the research.

Think tank offers strategy to ‘plug leaks’ in care home industry

A report offering a strategy for ‘resolving the financial crisis’ in the care home industry has been published by the Centre for
Health and the Public Interest. The report sets out the findings of a “forensic study” of over 830 adult care home companies, including the 26 largest, and suggests there are “significant levels of leakage” across the sector. The think tank recommends: a legal requirement for providers to disclose where their income goes; a new form of regulation to prevent companies with “unsatisfactory financial models” from providing care; and capital to be made available by government for the provision of new care homes.

**Interview with Scottish Care Chief Executive ahead of Care Home Conference**

An interview with Scottish Care Chief Executive Dr Donald Macaskill has been published by healthandcare.scot ahead of the membership body’s Care Home Conference 2019. Speaking ahead of the 15 November event, Dr Macaskill said the care home sector faces four big challenges: “resource, workforce, a changing role, and lack of appreciation and positive image”. He suggests that the sector has become “much more innovative” but the challenges faced are leaving some services, particularly small, rural and remote care homes, “on the edge”.

**End of Life/Palliative Care**

**New palliative care continuing professional development award**

A new continuing professional development award for health and social care workers has been developed by the University of the Highlands and Islands, Scottish Care has highlighted. Exploring and Developing Palliative and End of Life Care, beginning in January 2020, is designed to provide 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.

**Homelessness**

**Updated Code of Guidance on Homelessness published by Scottish Government**

Updated Code of Guidance to help local authorities in their duties to assist people who are threatened with or who are experiencing homelessness has been published by the Scottish Government. The document updates the statutory Code of Guidance on Homelessness to reflect legislative changes since the last version was published in 2005. Meanwhile, work to review and overhaul the Code, as recommended by the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action Group, will be taken forward in 2020. The document makes a number of references to housing support and care at home, as well as the relevance of the Health and Social Care Standards.

**Guidance on preventing homelessness for care leavers**

New guidance has been produced by a working group chaired by CELCIS and co-ordinated by the A Way Home Scotland coalition, on a ‘Youth Homelessness Prevention Pathway: Improving Care Leavers Housing Pathways’. The guidance sets out the background and policy context, with recommendations to improve support for care leavers at risk of becoming homeless. The guidance aims to fully
support existing legislation, ensure that care leavers who do experience homelessness can rapidly access tailored support, and changing the policy and culture, including shared responsibility between corporate parents to make sure young people leaving care are prepared and supported through their transition into adulthood and beyond.

**SPICe briefing on homelessness in Scotland published**

A research briefing on homelessness in Scotland has been published by the Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe). The briefing provides information and context around the development of homelessness policy in Scotland and explores the impact of these changes.

**Justice**

**Expert review into deaths of prisoners announced**

An independent expert review of the handling of deaths of prisoners is to be established, the Scottish Government has announced. The review, to be led by Wendy Sinclair-Gieben, Her Majesty’s Chief Inspector of Prisons for Scotland, examine the operational policies, practice and training in place within the Scottish Prison Service and NHS relevant to deaths of prisoners, identifying areas for improvement to ensure appropriate and transparent arrangements are in place. The review will report next summer.

**Learning Disabilities**

**Plans for mandatory training on learning disability and autism confirmed (England)**

The UK Government is to take forward plans for mandatory training on learning disability and autism for health and social care staff in England. Following a consultation on the proposals, the UK Government has confirmed that a training package will be tested and evaluated by March 2021 to inform a wider roll out.

**Medication**

**Report on antimicrobial use and resistance published ahead of awareness events**

An annual report on antimicrobial use and resistance (AMR) has been published by Health Protection Scotland ahead of European Antibiotic Awareness Day (18 November) and World Antibiotic Awareness Week (18 – 24 November). The Scottish One Health Antimicrobial Use and Antimicrobial Resistance (SONAAR) report provides information to support planning, prioritisation and evaluation of initiatives to optimise antimicrobial use and to minimise antimicrobial resistance.

**Principles agreed for remote consultations and prescribing**

A set of principles have been issued to help protect patients when accessing medication online or over the phone. The ten principles, jointly agreed by a range of healthcare organisations including Healthcare Improvement Scotland and the Care
Quality Commission, outline that healthcare professionals are expected to:
understand how to identify vulnerable patients and take appropriate steps to protect
them; carry out clinical assessments and medical record checks to ensure
medication is safe and appropriate; raise concerns when adequate patient
safeguards aren’t in place.

Older People

Exhibition looks at history of older people’s care

An exhibition exploring the shifts in the history of care for older people has been
launched by the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) Scotland in Edinburgh. Aspects of
Age looks at the shift from institutional to home care over two centuries of older
people’s nursing.

Other Health and Social Care

Survey to explore whether carers are aware of rights to support

A survey to gauge whether carers are aware of their rights to access support has
been launched by the Coalition of Carers in Scotland. The survey is designed to
explore whether carers feel informed about their rights in the context of the Carers
(Scotland) Act 2016, which came into force in 2018 and extended the rights of carers
in Scotland. The survey closes on 19 November.

Royal Blind and Scottish Care in Self-directed Support call

Royal Blind and Scottish Care have made a joint call for action to ensure people
living with visual impairment are aware of their entitlement to Self-directed Support
(SDS). Royal Blind surveyed over 100 people with sight loss and found that: almost
two thirds had not heard of SDS; only five had a support plan funded through SDS;
and over 60% had never been informed of the budget available to them for their care
and support. The charity and Scottish Care have called on the Scottish Government
to take further action to raise awareness of SDS, including through providing
accessible information on the policy for people with visual impairment.

Committee makes recommendations on support for third sector

A report on public sector funding to third sector organisations has been published by
a Scottish Parliament committee as part of its scrutiny of the Scottish Government’s
Draft Budget 2020-21. The Equalities and Human Rights Committee makes a
number of recommendations, including examining legislation, such as the Public
Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014, to investigate how the third sector’s role
in decision-making can be strengthened.

Updated guidance to support Living Wage commitment for adult social care workers

Updated guidance on payment of the Real Living Wage to adult social care workers
has been published by the Scottish Government and COSLA. The guidance,
addressed to integration authorities, local authorities, and third and independent care
providers, was developed by the Living Wage in Care Implementation Group, which comprises representatives from Scottish Government, COSLA, Coalition of Care and Support Providers, Scottish Care, the STUC and Integration Authorities. The guidance is intended to support ongoing discussions where negotiations have not yet concluded, and to help inform discussions in future years.

**Living Wage rises to £9.30**

The UK Living Wage has risen to £9.30 per hour, the Living Wage Foundation has announced. The new rate represents an increase of 30p per hour and is £1.09 more than the UK Government’s statutory National Living Wage.

**Progress report on delivery of National Action Plan to prevent FGM**

A report providing a progress update on plans to prevent and eradicate Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) has been published by the Scottish Government. A four-year national action plan was published in 2016, consisting of a range of objectives, actions and activities that sit under four categories Overarching work, Prevention, Protection and Provision. A number of actions relate to inter-agency child and adult protection procedures.

**Leadership changes at NHS Education for Scotland**

Changes in the leadership of NHS Education for Scotland (NES) have been announced after current Chief Executive Caroline Lamb agreed to take up a secondment to the Scottish Government as Director of Digital Reform and Service Engagement. From 1 December, Medical Director and Deputy Chief Executive Professor Stewart Irvine will assume the role of Acting Chief Executive and Accountable Officer for NES.

**Research to inform development of ALISS directory**

Research to help inform the development of the online service directory ALISS is being undertaken by the ALLIANCE. The directory helps people find support in their local community. The ALISS team at the ALLIANCE is looking to speak to people to better understand how information about services and activities are accessed and shared.

**Minutes from meeting of Strategic Group for Health and Community Care**

Minutes from a recent meeting of the Ministerial Strategic Group for Health and Community Care have been published by the Scottish Government. Care Inspectorate Chief Executive Peter Macleod attended the meeting on 29 May, which included Integration review progress update and Reform of Adult Social Care Support on the agenda. An agenda and papers for the meeting on 6 November have also been published, including reference to the Care Inspectorate’s Corporate Plan 2019 – 2022 and plans for a new group on Fair Work in Social Care.
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.