



Adult and Health



[Alzheimer's/Dementia](#)

[Care Homes/Care at Home](#)

[Justice](#)

[Older People](#)

[Other Health & Social Care](#)

[Workforce](#)

Alzheimer's/Dementia

[Alzheimer charity becomes Living Wage accredited](#)

Alzheimer Scotland has announced that they are an accredited Living Wage employer. Henry Simmons, Alzheimer Scotland Chief Executive, states that "Providing our employees and volunteers with this support enables Alzheimer Scotland to provide the highest quality possible as we continue working across our localities to help make sure nobody faces dementia alone."

[Tips for an enjoyable Christmas for people living with dementia](#)

The Dementia Services Development Centre has published tips to help support family and friends living with dementia to enjoy Christmas. Tips for getting the whole family involved in supporting those living with dementia include increasing light levels to help with communication, using crockery that contrasts with the colour of the food to assist in seeing the food, and also getting some exercise or singing songs.



Care Homes/Care at Home

[The role of care homes in social care](#)

Scottish Care has published a paper on 'Essential care: the critical role of care homes' at their annual Care Home Conference. Setting out how care homes "are and will continue to be essential" to social care in Scotland, the paper details how care homes contribute to the economy, health and social care workforce, Brexit and migration, human rights, self-directed support, technology and innovation, meeting changing care needs, and older people and communities.

Justice

[Study of youth transitions and crime to enter new phase](#)

The Edinburgh Study of Youth Transitions and Crime is to enter a new phase of data collection. The latest phase of the long-term study, beginning in late 2019, will seek to understand how events and circumstances in childhood and adolescence have impacted on the lives of study members now that they are adults in their early 30s. In particular, it will look at different criminal justice pathways and how these have impacted on longer-term life-chances.

[New Hearings and Evidence Suite launched ahead of video recording change](#)

A new facility for children and vulnerable witnesses giving evidence has been launched in Glasgow. The Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service's Evidence and Hearings Suite has been established ahead of new regulations that will allow child witnesses to give their evidence via a video recorded before the trial from early 2020. The Evidence and Hearings Suite's design incorporates child-friendly hearing rooms for the pre-recording of evidence, "live link" rooms for evidence given by TV link to court, waiting rooms and support spaces. It also includes a sensory room to help create a calm and supportive environment. Learning from the new suite will inform the ongoing work to develop the Barnahus model in Scotland.

Older People

[Information on Legal Advice and Assistance scheme](#)

The charity Outside the Box is drawing attention to the Legal Advice and Assistance scheme for older people, including a document published by Solicitors for Older People Scotland in partnership with Age Scotland on the scheme and qualifying criteria. Legal Advice and Assistance is a scheme which allows older people to access free or low-cost legal advice on matters like wills, Power of Attorney and other legal matters that are important to them and their families.

[Measuring ageing by remaining life expectancy](#)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has started a discussion on the measurement of ageing and if it should be based on remaining life expectancy rather than years lived, and if older age should continue to be considered as starting at 65



years old. The marker for the start of older age has traditionally been taken as 65 years old but the ONS discusses why this may not be appropriate, and their approach to measuring population ageing for the purposes of gauging economic, public service and societal impacts.

[World Kindness Day \(13 November 2019\)](#)

Age Scotland is acknowledging World Kindness Day by highlighting their 'Share What You Love' campaign which asks people to share something they already enjoy with an older friend, relative or neighbour. Small actions such as baking a cake, going to a football match, gardening, taking the dog for a walk or watching a favourite tv programme together, can be appreciated by older people and help with feelings of loneliness or isolation.

Other Health and Social Care

[Short papers on social services approaches](#)

The Institute for Research and Innovation in Social Services (Iriss) has published three short papers on social services approaches and procedures. Each paper includes simple definitions of the approaches, why they are important and how they can be used in practice. The short papers are:

- [Safe and Together approach](#) to tackling domestic abuse, with insight from Andrea Davidson, Team Leader in a Children's Social Work Practice Team in North West Edinburgh
- [Recording practice in social work](#), with insight from Sharon Laing, Service Manager Corporate Parenting, East Ayrshire Council
- [Duty of candour](#) with insight from Jackie Weston, Director of Care at Care Concern Group

[Annual review of impact of third sector providers organisation](#)

The Coalition of Care and Support Providers in Scotland (CCPS) has published their Annual Review for 2019-19, examining what impact their work has made and setting out their aims, objectives, membership, key achievements and future plans. The CCPS identifies, represents, promotes and safeguards the interests of third sector and not-for-profit social care and support providers in Scotland.

[Public inquiry into hospital safety issues](#)

The BBC reports that a public inquiry will be held into safety and wellbeing concerns at the new children's hospital in Edinburgh and the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital in Glasgow. The inquiry will determine how vital issues relating to ventilation and other key building systems occurred, and how to avoid mistakes in future projects.



[UNISON survey report on impact of austerity on social work in Scotland](#)

A survey report on the impact of austerity on social work services has been published by UNISON. The report is based on FOI responses from local authorities and a Scotland-wide survey of members of the union working in social work teams. Key themes identified in the report include: a more reactive approach, with less time to focus on prevention; increased workloads as a result of cuts to admin/business support and staff shortages; and problems in providing support in crisis services. Responding to the survey, [Social Work Scotland](#) said it was important to also note “broader issues around social work and its profile in an increasingly complex integrated care landscape”, adding that a platform was being developed to “provide strategic responses to these interconnected issues and risks”.

[Progress report on Health and Social Care Delivery Plan](#)

The Scottish Government has published a progress report on the actions from the Health and Social Care Delivery Plan. The Plan sets out a programme to increase the pace of improvement and change within health and social care services, and the progress report sets out what has been delivered and which actions are outstanding. Covering integration of health and social care, national clinical strategy, public health improvement, NHS board reform, and cross cutting activities, the Delivery Plan will be updated to focus intent and sharpen activity, provide a further update on actions in progress, provide information on new initiatives and immediate priorities for the remaining lifetime of the delivery plan.

[New date for Scottish Government budget](#)

The Scottish Government has confirmed that its budget for 2020-21 will not be published until after Christmas due to the UK General Election and cancellation of the UK Government budget. A new date is to be agreed with the Scottish Parliament's Finance Committee as soon as possible. The postponement means the Scottish Parliament will have a shorter overall timescale in which to approve the budget, which was originally scheduled to be published on Thursday 12 December.

Workforce

[App pilot for staff referrals \(England\)](#)

A new app allowing social care staff to refer friends and family for job vacancies is being piloted in Cornwall to help address recruitment and retention. Providers have signed up to ‘Care Friends’, which incentivises staff to share job vacancies with their contacts and social networks and rewards them only once an individual is in post.



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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