



Adult and Health

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Alcohol and Drugs

[Latest stats on alcohol-related hospital admissions](#)

New figures on alcohol-related hospital admissions has been published by ISD Scotland. In 2018/19 there were 38,370 alcohol-related hospital admissions in general acute and psychiatric hospitals in Scotland, similar to the previous year (38,199). For males, the age groups with the highest rate of alcohol-related general acute hospital stays are 55-64 and 45-54. For females, the age group with the highest rate of alcohol-related general acute hospital stays was 45-54.

[Brain activity could help predict compulsive drinking, study finds](#)

A brain circuit could help predict those that will develop a compulsive drinking disorder, according to a study published in the Science journal. The research, led by academics at Vanderbilt University and the Salk Institute for Biological Studies, used a mouse model and found that activity in a neural circuit could be used to predict weeks in advance which mice would be susceptible to compulsive drinking, despite negative consequences.

[New heroin addiction clinic in Glasgow](#)

A new service to treat homeless people with heroin addiction is opening in Glasgow, healthandcare.scot reports. The first of its kind in Scotland, the clinic will use pharmaceutical heroin to treat addicts, while also offering treatment for physical health issues and help to access social and mental support services.



Alzheimer's/Dementia

[Intergenerational study planned after pilot saw benefits for people with dementia](#)

A major study is to bring together nursery-aged children and adults living with dementia. Researchers at the University of Stirling are launching the project after a six-week pilot saw children from the university's integrated research kindergarten taking part in art, gardening and music sessions alongside adults living with dementia. The project was found to bring benefits to both groups.

Care Homes/Care at Home

[Consultation events to inform draft quality framework for support services \(care at home\) and housing support services \(including combined services\)](#)

A series of events to help inform work on a joint framework for support services (care at home) and housing support services (including combined services) are to be hosted by the Care Inspectorate. The sessions will run from 9.30am – 12.30pm on 26 November (Dundee), 28 November (Stirling) and 3 December (Inverness). The new framework will align with a new approach for use in self-evaluation, scrutiny and improvement support which sets out the elements that will help us answer key questions about the difference care is making to people and the quality and effectiveness of the things that contribute to those differences.

[Elgin care home must make urgent improvements](#)

A care home for older people in Elgin must make urgent improvements in the care experienced by vulnerable residents, inspectors have said. The Care Inspectorate has served a formal Improvement Notice following an inspection which raised serious concerns. The notice lists six areas which require urgent improvement.

[Fife care home must make urgent improvements](#)

A care home for adults in Fife must make urgent improvements in the care experienced by residents, inspectors have said. The Care Inspectorate has served a formal Improvement Notice on Abbotsford Care in Newburgh, following an inspection which raised serious concerns. The notice lists five areas requiring urgent improvement.

[Home Care Day on 4 December](#)

Scottish Care has drawn attention to the forthcoming Home Care Day on 4 December. The event is designed to celebrate and recognise care at home and housing support services across Scotland.

[Care home walking project wins sportscotland award](#)

A project to help care home residents become more active has won at sportscotland's Coaches, Officials and Volunteer 2019 awards. Paths for All's Care About Walking Project came first in the Coaching for an Active Life Category. The



scheme supports care homes in Perth and Kinross through increased opportunities for walking as part of the daily routine.

[Winners of National Care Home Awards](#)

The annual National Care Home Awards took place on Friday 15 November in Glasgow. Scottish Care has published a full list of winners across the 14 categories.

Carers

[Survey results on Carers Act awareness](#)

The results of a survey on awareness of the Carers (Scotland) Act have been released by the Coalition of Carers in Scotland, healthandcare.scot reports. The survey found that more carers are aware of their rights under the legislation but these are “not always being realised in practice”. Nearly four in ten respondents said they had never heard of the legislation that came into force in 2018 to support carers’ health and wellbeing. Last year, 51% of carers had never heard of the Act.

[Two thirds likely to care unpaid for loved one in lifetime, charity analysis suggests](#)

Two thirds of UK adults can expect to care unpaid for a loved one in their lifetime, according to an analysis published by Carers UK. Conducted by the Universities of Sheffield and Birmingham, the study found that 65% of adults have cared unpaid for a loved one. On average, women can expect to take on caring responsibilities over a decade earlier than men, with half of women caring by the age of 46, compared to half of men who can expect to care at 57.

Infection Prevention and Control

[Involvement sought in developing new HAI standards](#)

The development of new standards for Healthcare Associated Infections (HAIs) has been highlighted by the ALLIANCE. Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS) is seeking involvement in the process of developing the new standards through the development group or participation in an online survey, focus groups or individual conversations. The first scoping group meeting will take place in February 2020, with the development group meeting from June 2020.

[New Vaccination Transformation Programme e-newsletter launched](#)

A new quarterly e-newsletter providing updates on work underway to modernise the delivery of vaccinations across Scotland has been launched by NHS Health Scotland. Issue 1 of the Vaccination Transformation Programme newsletter includes local updates as well as a national update from the Scottish Government.

[NHS GGC placed in ‘special measures’ following hospital deaths](#)

NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde (NHS GGC) has been placed in “special measures” following the deaths of two children at the Queen Elizabeth University



Hospital, the BBC reports. Health Secretary Jeane Freeman said NHS GGC would be escalated to stage four of the NHS Board Performance Escalation Framework over infection prevention and control issues, meaning an oversight board will be put in place, chaired by Chief Nursing Officer Prof Fiona McQueen.

[Influenza vaccination comms guide published](#)

A document providing advice, guidance and campaign materials to support national influenza vaccination campaigns has been published by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. The influenza vaccination communications guide has been developed to either complement existing initiatives or provide a basis for the launch of new activities aimed at increasing uptake.

Justice

[Committee reports on secure care and prison places for children and young people](#)

The Scottish Parliament's Justice Committee has published its report on secure care and prison places for children and young people in Scotland. The Committee undertook an inquiry following the deaths in custody at HMP YOI Polmont of William Brown and Katie Allan. The Committee said it had concerns regarding provision of services in the secure care and prison system, particularly in relation to mental health, health care more generally and the support provided for education and other meaningful activities. The Committee is of the view that "whenever our judicial system decides to take away a child's or young person's liberty by placing them in secure care or imprisoning them in prison then it is incumbent that they are provided with the best possible care and services in order to keep them safe, meet their needs and aid their rehabilitation back into the community".

Mental Health

[Annual Mental Health Strategy progress report published](#)

The second annual progress report on delivery of the Scottish Government's Mental Health Strategy has been published. The ten-year strategy, published in 2017, includes 40 specific commitments to support the vision of a Scotland "where people can get the right help at the right time, expect recovery, and fully enjoy their rights, free from discrimination and stigma". According to the report, 19 of the 40 actions are complete or nearly complete.

Older People

[Playing games can protect thinking skills in older age, study suggests](#)

Those who regularly play non-digital games are more likely to stay mentally sharp in later life, according to a study by the University of Edinburgh. Psychologists tested more than 1000 people aged 70 for memory, problem solving, thinking speed and general thinking ability, then repeated the same tests every three years until aged 79. People who increased game playing in later years were found to have experienced less decline in thinking skills in their seventies.



Workforce

[Integrated workforce plan due by the end of the year](#)

An integrated health and social care workforce plan will be published before the end of the year, Health Secretary Jeane Freeman has confirmed. In a parliamentary response to a question from Labour MSP David Stewart, Ms Freeman noted that workforce plans had already been published for the NHS, Primary Care and Social Care, and that an integrated plan “will be the first of its kind in the UK when it is published later this year”.

[SSSC publishes 2018 Workforce Data Report](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has published its latest annual Workforce Data Report. The 2018 report shows that the size of the social service workforce has increased to 204,610, a rise of 1.2% since 2017 and the highest level recorded since the reports began in 2008. The report also shows that social service workforce makes up approximately 7.7% of all Scottish employment. The biggest rises in 2018 were in care homes for adults and generic fieldwork teams, the latter mainly driven by Glasgow City Council reabsorbing staff from Cordia.

[Campaign to encourage more people into nursing launched](#)

A new campaign to encourage more people into a career in nursing has been launched by the Scottish Government, The Herald reports. The Careers in Healthcare ‘What did you do today?’ campaign will aim to raise awareness of the profession with a national marketing campaign across cinemas, television, newspapers, radio, online and social media. The campaign will also highlight the advantages of training in midwifery, healthcare science or allied health professions.

[Scheme to recruit veterans and care leavers into social care](#)

A scheme to recruit care experienced young people and armed forces veterans into the care sector has been launched by the a Scottish care provider, healthandcare.scot reports. The LOVE group, based in Hamilton, will offer participants a modern apprenticeship and guaranteed employment with LOVE@care or one of its partner organisations.

[Iriss and SSSC pull together supervision resources](#)

Iriss and the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) have partnered to collate and update a range of resources to improve understanding of supervision. Resources available include an Iriss Insight, guidance and learning from specific projects.

[Proposed changes to NMC readmission and English language requirements](#)

Proposed changes to the readmission process and English language requirements have been published for approval by the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) governing council. The changes are designed to streamline the process for those wanting to return to practice and those seeking to join the register for the first time.



[Expert steering group on post-registration standards established](#)

The NMC has also established an expert steering group to review how post-registration education and development continues to evolve. Part of an ongoing education programme of change includes exploration of post-registration standards. The steering group is chaired by Dr David Foster OBE and includes a range of key stakeholders from across the four countries of the UK.

Other Health and Social Care

[Net expenditure of £13.5bn on health and social care in 2017/18](#)

There was £13.5bn of net expenditure on health (£10.4bn) and social care (£3.1bn) in Scotland in 2017/18, according to a statistical bulletin by ISD Scotland. Care delivered in a community setting accounted for 47% (£6.3bn) of the total health and social care expenditure, with the remaining 53% (£7.2bn) being provided in either a hospital or a care home. Of the total health & social care expenditure, 40% (£5.4bn) was on delivering services to people aged 65 and over. For those services delivered to people aged 65 and over, £4.1bn (76%) was spent in a health setting and £1.3bn (24%) in a social care setting. Almost a third of the total expenditure (£1.6bn) within the NHS for people aged 65 and over is a result of unplanned admissions to hospital.

[Bill to improve experience of forensic medical examinations for those affected by sexual crime](#)

A proposed Bill to improve the experience of forensic medical services for people who have been affected by sexual crime has been introduced by the Scottish Government. The Forensic Medical Services (Victims of Sexual Offences) (Scotland) Bill will place a statutory duty for health boards to provide forensic medical examinations to victims and to ensure that an individual's healthcare needs are addressed in a holistic way in the context of an examination. The Bill will also allow victims to 'self-refer' to request a forensic medical examination without having reported an incident to the police.

[Report scopes evidence on role of arts in improving health and wellbeing](#)

A report scoping evidence on the role of arts in improving health and wellbeing has been published by the World Health Organization (WHO). Taking a specific focus on the European Region, the report brings together results from over 3000 studies identifying a major role for the arts in the prevention of ill health, promotion of health, and management and treatment of illness across the lifespan.

[New 'Registered by the Care Inspectorate' logo](#)

Care services can now use a widget on their website to show visitors they are Care Inspectorate registered. When visitors click on the interactive digital logo, a new window opens showing the service's information on our website. The widget can be displayed on any website and every service has its own unique coding behind the widget, linked directly to its service information on the Care Inspectorate website.



[Committee seeks views on how to achieve community wellbeing](#)

A committee at the Scottish Parliament is seeking views on how to achieve community wellbeing. The Local Government and Communities Committee has launched a call for evidence to find out what people think affects community wellbeing and for ideas on what this future work should focus on. Topics the Committee is seeking views on include: the financial impact that poverty has on general community wellbeing; the role of councils and other groups in advancing the wellbeing of their communities; the extent to which councils are investing in and improving the public health of communities; and the effectiveness of organisations working together at community level, such as community planning partnerships and integrated authorities. The deadline for views is 22 January.

[SCIE publishes 15 practice actions for integrated care \(England\)](#)

A resource setting out 15 practice actions to achieve integrated care has been published by the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE). Produced with the Local Government Association, the resource draws on evidence about what works from international research, emerging best practices and engagement with stakeholders.

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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