



Adult and Health

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Alzheimer's/Dementia

[Study provides insight into proteins that disrupt brain signals](#)

New research into reducing proteins that stop signals in the brains of people with Alzheimer's disease has been published by researchers at the University of Edinburgh. A Dementia Research Institute-funded study in mice showed how the proteins amyloid beta and tau work together to disrupt communication between brain cells. Scientists found that when genetic tools were used to reduce the presence of tau, the changes in brain function were completely reversed.

Care Homes/Care at Home

[Survey to inform review of quality frameworks](#)

A survey to inform a review of the Care Inspectorate's quality frameworks has been launched. We are specifically looking for feedback on the quality framework for care homes for older people which has now been in use for over a year, meaning that all care homes for older people have experienced at least one inspection using the new framework. We have had some feedback that one single quality framework for care homes for adults (including older people) would be welcome. As part of the survey we are asking if there should be a single quality framework for all care homes for adults (including older people). The survey closes on 12 January 2020.



[Registration open for Infection Control Care Home Train the Trainer workshop](#)

Registration is open for the latest cohort of the Infection Control Care Home Train the Trainer workshop, due to take place in February and March, as highlighted by Scottish Care. The programme provides an opportunity for care home staff with an education remit to enhance their knowledge and skills on infection prevention and control education and support them in implementing this into local training provision.

[Scottish Care marks Human Rights Day with 'right to social care' report](#)

A new report on the 'right to social care' has been published by Scottish Care. Released to mark Human Rights Day (10 December), the report argues that Scotland explores the concept of the 'right to health' as it relates to social care and long-term care and what this might mean for social care practice. The paper argues that incorporating the United Nations Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in Scotland would "give some real legislative grounding to the delivery of the 'right to health' and...by extension the 'right to social care' in Scotland".

Disabilities

[Regulations give disabled people a right to make communal areas more accessible](#)

New regulations giving disabled people the right to make communal areas more accessible have been laid before Parliament by the Scottish Government. The Relevant Adjustments to Common Parts Regulations will give disabled people the right to remove barriers to access with the support of a majority of neighbours. They will also empower disabled people to challenge others from unreasonably withholding consent to make basic adaptations. The regulations are due to come into force on 24 February 2020, subject to parliamentary scrutiny.

[People with a learning disability seven times as likely to be lonely, charity finds](#)

People with a learning disability are around seven times as likely as their non-disabled peers to be lonely, according to research published by Mencap. A survey of people with a learning disability found that 24% of respondents felt lonely 'a lot', compared with 3.4% of the general population. The charity has highlighted that Christmas can make people feel "even lonelier" and called for more to be done to address loneliness among people with a learning disability.

Health

[Dundee event explores hybrid approach to quality improvement](#)

An event exploring the development of a new hybrid approach bringing together quality improvement methods with health research is to be hosted in Dundee on 7 January 2020. The 'Sandpit' event, led by the universities of Dundee and Stirling as well as a range of health boards, will be using healthcare transitions after stroke as an exemplar complex problem through which innovative methods can be tested.



[HPS updates quarterly data on immunisations](#)

Health Protection Scotland (HPS) has updated its web pages to reflect the latest quarterly data on immunisations. The data covers a range of conditions, including flu, rotavirus and shingles.

[Norovirus season starts](#)

Norovirus season has started. HPS has highlighted the best ways to stop norovirus spreading and new support materials available on the [NHS Inform](#) website.

[GMC consults on remote prescribing guidance](#)

The General Medical Council (GMC) has launched a consultation on its guidance on remote prescribing. The GMC is looking to understand whether its good practice guidance, published in 2013, needs developed further given the pace of change in remote healthcare services. The deadline for responses is 18 February 2020.

Justice

[Iriss Insight on working with people who commit hate crime](#)

A resource pulling together existing research on effective practice with people who commit hate crimes has been published by Iriss. The Iriss Insight defines and describes hate crime and its root causes, and then considers what may constitute effective practice for practitioners in Scotland working in this field.

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

A call for evidence has been launched on a proposed Bill to improve the experience of forensic medical services for people who have been affected by sexual crime. 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. The Health and Sport Committee is inviting views on the Bill before the deadline of 30 January 2020.

Social Work

[BASW launches Social Work and Human Rights guides](#)

Guides on social work and human rights have been launched by the British Association of Social Workers (BASW). Launched to mark Human Rights Day (10 December), the resources are designed to reflect on the importance of human rights and how the social work profession can be at the forefront of defending existing rights and building new rights and protections for the most vulnerable.



Other Health and Social Care

[Annual returns are coming](#)

This year's annual returns will be available to service providers for completion between 3 January and 14 February 2020. Each year, the Care Inspectorate asks providers to complete an annual return. This gives us important information that helps us plan, inform and carry out our inspections. We also share some of the information with other organisations, such as the Scottish Social Services Council and the Scottish Government, and we use it to produce several statistical publications that you can view on our website.

[NMC blog on keeping regulation 'fit for purpose'](#)

The Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) has published a blog by Professor Julia Black, Pro Director for Research at the London School of Economics, on the areas to consider when exploring the future of regulation. Prof Black said it was important for regulators to be “anticipatory, responsive, collaborative, dynamic, proactive and – where appropriate – experimental” but that in practice “regulation is often complex, messy and highly imperfect”. She suggests thinking about regulation as a system with six key elements: Goals and values; People and organisations; Knowledge and understandings; Regulatory tools and techniques; Trust and legitimacy.

[Committee comments on IJB spending plans](#)

A Scottish Parliament committee has commented on the nature of the spending plans put in place by Integration Joint Boards (IJBs). Writing to the Finance Committee, Health and Sport Committee Convener Lewis Macdonald said the spending plans of IJBs are “limited in the extreme, barely extending into the current year and completely lacking any forward look let alone the five years referenced in your letter”, noting the “significant challenges even in accessing timely information on the agreed budgets of the Integration Joint Boards”.

[Consultation on Argyll and Bute integration scheme](#)

A consultation on the Integration Scheme in Argyll and Bute has been launched by the local authority and NHS Highland. The scheme, which provides information about which health and social care functions and services will be delivered by the local health and social care partnership, was originally agreed in 2016 and has been updated for consultation with the public and stakeholders.

[Paper summarises approaches to wellbeing and adult social care across four nations](#)

A new paper provides a summary of policy developments on wellbeing in the field of adult social care across the four nations of the UK. The report is the first developed by the Centre for International Research on Care, Labour and Equalities (CIRCLE) as part of its Sustainable Care research programme, which has an overarching objective to advance understanding of sources of economic and social sustainability in care. The paper explores the “slightly different” approaches to wellbeing taken across the UK, noting a particular focus on personalisation in Scotland.



[New Audit Scotland Chair appointed](#)

Alan Alexander has been appointed as the new Chair of Audit Scotland's board from April 2020. Professor Alexander, who will succeed Iain Leitch as Chair, has been on the board as an independent non-executive director for 18 months.

[Scottish Housing Regulator to examine Glasgow's homelessness services](#)

Glasgow's service for people who are homeless is to be examined by the Scottish Housing Regulator. The Regulator, which highlighted a range of weaknesses in Glasgow City Council's performance in a report in March 2018, said it will visit the Council to directly test its performance, with a particular focus on how it discharges its duty to provide people with emergency and temporary accommodation.

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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