Care Homes/Care at Home

Justice

Mental Health

Nutrition

Older People

Other Health & Social Care

Other

Care Home nursing

Scottish Care has published a blog by their National Workforce Lead for Nursing discussing the role and improving the profile of care home nursing. The blog notes that from September, pre-reg nurse training will ensure that all students will have a placement within a care home, which will hopefully encourage a trend in more newly qualified nurses working in care home nursing.

Justice

Guidance for local authorities on provision of Appropriate Adult services

The Scottish Government has published guidance for local authorities about their statutory duties relating to the provision of Appropriate Adult services. Appropriate Adults provide communication support to vulnerable victims, witnesses, suspects and accused persons, aged 16 and over, during police investigations. Local authorities have a duty to ensure the availability and training of Appropriate Adults, and the Care Inspectorate has a duty to assess the quality of Appropriate Adult services.
Mental Health

Posters and presentations from annual forum

The Scottish Government has published posters and presentations from the Mental Health Strategy annual forum for 2019.

Nutrition

Resources on spotting the signs and symptoms of malnutrition

The Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (ALLIANCE) is promoting the availability of resources from the Eat Well Age Well project on the signs and symptoms of malnutrition. The resources include posters, leaflets and guides to help in the support of older people in relation to food and eating well.

Older People

Talking therapies and older people

Age UK has published the results of research into the use of the IAPT (Improving Access to Psychological Therapies) programme, developed to provide talking therapies for those with anxiety disorders and depression, by older people and the reasons why they may not be accessing this programme or talking therapies. The research reportedly finds that older people may be reluctant to discuss their feelings due to ingrained attitudes towards mental health, that many people feel a low mood is a natural part of ageing, and that physical health can be seen as more important than mental health.

Other Health and Social Care

Roundtable events for commissioners of adult social care

The Institute for Research and Innovation in Social Services (Iriss) will hold roundtable events on the impact of the Health and Social Care Standards for commissioners of adult social care on 27 February and 30 March in Glasgow. The facilitated discussions will be an opportunity to:

- connect with colleagues in similar roles to critically reflect on how the Standards have made an impact on the Health and Social Care landscape and what that means for your work
- collectively discuss the links between the principles behind the Standards (e.g. Compassion) and commissioning practice
- contribute to moving the conversation on about making personal outcomes at the heart of system change
Scottish Social Services Awards open for applications

Now open for applications for 2020, the Scottish Social Services Awards celebrate the work of Scottish social services and the individuals, teams and organisations making a “positive difference to people’s lives.”

Resources to compare social service workforce data between areas

An updated tool and data on the social services workforce has been published by the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC). The Social Worker Data Tool has been updated, which makes information on practising social workers employed by local authorities more accessible, and will also allow for comparison and benchmarking between local authorities on the headcount and whole time equivalent (WTE) of social workers from 2009 to 2018. Also available are a spreadsheet of social service workforce data, and a breakdown of local authority post types for 2018 which presents headcount and whole time equivalent (WTE) data of all filled posts in local authority social work services where those employed do not work in a registered care service.

Information on part-time fee grants for social services and healthcare qualifications

The Scottish Services Social Council (SSSC), together with the Student Awards Agency Scotland (SAAS) and NHS Education for Scotland (NES) have produced a new leaflet with information on the child, health and social care qualifications at SCQF level 7 to 10 that can attract a funding contribution from the Part Time Fee Grant.

Fire Starter Festival (10 February 2020)

The Institute for Research and Innovation in Social Services (Iriss) will host an event as part of the Fire Starter Festival on 10 February 2020 in Glasgow, showcasing their creative approaches to supporting the social care workforce. The event aims to:

- inspire with new ideas about how to be creative in your role
- help create a realistic plan to support embedding the arts in your context
- create space to learn from each other and ask questions about the role of arts in social care

Review of provider of mental health and adult social care services (England)

The English care regulator Care Quality Commission (CQC) has published the results of a provider well-led review of Cygnet Health Care Limited, a provider of mental health and adult social care services. The review has been undertaken following significant concerns regarding the safety and culture of Cygnet Whorlton Hall. Prior to the review, the CQC inspected 47 of Cygnet Health Care Limited’s registered locations and identified concerns linked to the provider’s leadership and governance arrangements, whilst during the review CQC inspectors found that a clear line of accountability could not be established across all of Cygnet Health Care’s locations.
Other

Annual progress report on action plan to end homelessness

The Scottish Government has published an annual progress report detailing the progress being made in delivering the work outlined in the Ending Homelessness Together Action Plan. The reports sets out a summary of key homelessness statistics and a table updating the status of all actions in the Action Plan.

Timetable announced for Scottish budget

The Scottish Government has announced the Scottish Budget will be published on Thursday 6 February. The announcement follows the news that the UK Budget will be published on Wednesday 11 March. In his letter to the Scottish Parliament’s Finance and Constitution Committee, the Finance Secretary Derek Mackay is proposing a “compressed timetable” for the Budget Bill, introducing it to Parliament on the same day as its publication. The Cabinet Secretary then envisages the Stage 1 process will start the week beginning Monday 24 February, with Stages 2 and 3 commencing on Monday 2 March.

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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