Alcohol/Drugs

Analysis of first year of alcohol sales after introduction of MUP

A study analysing the impact of Minimum Unit pricing (MUP) on the volume of alcohol sold in the off-trade in Scotland in the first full year after the introduction of MUP reportedly shows a reduction in sales. Compared to the twelve months which preceded implementation of MUP in May 2018, the volume of pure alcohol sold per adult in the off-trade in Scotland decreased from 7.4 to 7.1 litres

Alzheimer's/Dementia

Fund launches to support former players living with dementia

The Evening Times reports that a fund will launch to provide financial aid and therapeutic support to former football players living with dementia, in the name of and dedicated to former Celtic player Billy McNeil who died in 2019, nine years after being diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease.
Health

**Draft guideline on digital and mobile health interventions**

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has published a draft guideline on digital interventions such as apps, wearable devise and online programmes and websites to help people achieve health goals. The draft guidance recommends using resources from expert sources when possible, such as Public Health England and the NHS apps library, to ensure the content has been assessed for safety, effectiveness and data security, and that digital interventions should be used as supportive tools in addition to regular services.

**Learning Disabilities**

**Views sought on resources for social workers working with people with autism and learning disabilities**

The British Association of Social Workers (BASW) is seeking views on developing resources for social workers working with autistic people and people with learning disabilities. BASW has produced capabilities statements and continuous professional development frameworks on working with autistic adults and adults with learning disabilities. BASW is now developing additional resources and activities to support social workers working with autistic people and individuals with learning disabilities to help embed the frameworks into social work practice.

**Mental Health**

**Survey by Commission seeking feedback on their work**

The Mental Welfare Commission (MWC) is running a survey for their stakeholders, seeking feedback on their roles and work. The survey aims to gather the views of people who have been in touch with the MWC to find out how well each of their roles and responsibilities is understood, and how well people think they are doing. The survey runs until 25 February 2020.

**Older People**

**Potential social and equality impacts of Brexit**

The Scottish Government has published an independent report on the social and equality impacts of Brexit, which looks at what effect the UK’s decision to leave the EU may have on the legal rights and protections of individuals and groups in Scotland. According to the report, older people may be impacted in various ways including that older UK nationals who have retired to other EU countries may lose their rights of residence in that country if they do not meet national requirements, and their social security and State Pension entitlements could be affected, or older people in the UK may be affected by shortages of medications, or also by continuing shortages in personal assistant care workers as a result of declining number of EU care workers.
Study suggests one minute of weekly exercise can provide health benefits

A study conducted by Abertay University asked groups of 65 to 75-year-olds participate in either once or twice weekly training sessions for a period of 8 weeks, and reportedly suggests that the weekly sprint interval training (SIT) of cycling on stationary bikes for a total of one minute could be enough to improve blood glucose control and general mobility. The participants had been living a sedentary lifestyle with no regular exercise, and were asked to cycle as hard as they were able to for six seconds before resting for at least a minute, and then they would repeat the process until they had exercised for a total of one minute.

Community crisis teams to be piloted to help older people at home (England)

NHS England will be piloting the use of community crisis teams of nurses, physios and care staff to help sick older people at home, with a plan to roll out the model across the country by 2023, and to reduce A&E demand, the BBC reports. As well as guaranteeing rapid responses to crises, such as falls and minor infections, the aim is also to guarantee care packages within two days for hospital patients who are ready to be discharged from hospital.

Other Health and Social Care

Staff vacancies in care services

The Care Inspectorate and Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) have published statistics on the levels of staff vacancies in Scotland’s social care services for 2018. The staff vacancies report provides a national overview of vacancy levels and recruitment difficulties reported by care services registered with the Care Inspectorate. It also includes data on the actual number of vacancies services have, which is held by the SSSC. Key points include:

- at 31 December 2018, 38% of services reported having vacancies, which is unchanged from the proportion of services with vacancies at 31 December 2017
- housing support services (63% of services), care at home services (60% of services), care homes for older people (59% of services) and care homes for adults (52% of services) had the largest proportion of services reporting vacancies where the service type had more than 100 services
- Aberdeen (49% of services), Edinburgh (49% of services) and East Ayrshire (48% of services) had the highest proportion of services with vacancies of all local authority areas

Latest edition of Improving Care published

The latest edition of Improving Care has been published by the Care Inspectorate. Improving Care 2019/20 is a guide to who we are and what we do, including updates on our inspections, our new resources and good news stories from care services.
Improving the issuing and implementation of directions in health and social care

The Scottish Government has published ‘Directions from integration authorities to health boards and local authorities: statutory guidance’, setting out how to improve the issuing and implementation of directions issued under the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014. This Act places a duty on Integration Authorities to develop a strategic plan, also known as a strategic commissioning plan, for integrated functions and budgets under their control, and directions are the means by which Integration Authorities tell the Health Boards and Local Authority what is to be delivered using the integrated budget. The guidance aims to improve practice in the issuing of directions, and their implementation, through the sharing of good practice.

Direction and support for NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde

The Scottish Government’s Health Secretary Jeane Freeman has announced that NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde has been escalated to Stage 4 of the NHS Board Performance Escalation Framework for ongoing issues relating to infection prevention, management and control at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital and the Royal Hospital for Children, and support will focus on scheduled care, unscheduled care, primary care out of hours, finance and culture and leadership. Calum Campbell, Chief Executive of NHS Lanarkshire, has been appointed as Turnaround Director at NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde to directly manage operational delivery.

Campaign to encourage careers in adult social care

A new campaign has been launched by the Scottish Government, ‘There’s More to Care than Caring’, to encourage more people to choose careers in adult social care. The campaign aims to drive awareness of the options available and offers a guide to a career in adult social care, as well as stories from people already working in adult social care.

Latest health inequalities monitoring report published

The latest Long-term Monitoring of Health Inequalities report has been published by the Scottish Government. The report monitors indicators of health inequalities, including life expectancy, premature mortality, mental wellbeing, and indicators of morality. The report found that significant health inequalities remain across all categories, with the exception of the healthy birthweight indicator.

Other

Petition to reduce social work powers opened

The Public Petitions Committee has opened petition PE01785 on reviewing and reducing social work powers. The petitioner has suggested these powers are currently being abused and has asked for review in relation to employability, guardianship orders, care, contact, volunteer panel members and education. Closing date for the online petition is 20 February 2020.
Scottish Government updates on homelessness figures

A bi-annual bulletin update on homelessness has been published by the Scottish Government. According to the report, in the period from 1 April to 30 September 2019 the number of children in temporary accommodation (7,252) had increased on a national level by 6% compared to September 2018.

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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