



# Adult and Health

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## Health

### [NHS Whistleblowing Champions now in post](#)

Whistleblowing Champions have now been appointed to 19 of Scotland's 22 health boards in an effort to create a more honest and open workplace culture within the NHS. The introduction of the role forms part of a wider package of measures including:

- the introduction of legislation to allow the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman to take on the role of the Independent National Whistleblowing Officer for NHS Scotland, which will go live this summer
- a review of workforce policies, including the whistleblowing policy, to ensure that they are person centred, and applied consistently across all NHS boards.



### [Latest delayed discharge statistics published](#)

Information Services Division (ISD) Scotland has released its monthly statistics on delayed discharges within NHS Scotland. In December 2019, there were 45,404 days spent in hospital by people whose discharge was delayed, an increase of 6% from 2018. The average number of beds occupied per day due to delayed discharges was 1,465, down from 1,497 in November. Of the 1,199 people delayed more than three days, health and social care reasons accounted for 897 delays, complex needs for 260 delays and patient and family-related reasons for 42 delays.

## **Housing**

### [New guidance to reduce the risk from fire in specialised housing](#)

The Scottish Government has published new guidance to reduce the risk from fire in specialised housing, such as sheltered or supported accommodation. The guidance is built on two main pillars: the person-centred fire safety risk assessment, which considers how a person's characteristics, behaviour or capabilities may increase risk, and the premises-based fire safety risk assessment, which is an application of fire safety principles to the built environment.

## **Justice**

### [Latest criminal justice social work figures published](#)

Criminal justice social work statistics for 2018-19 have been published by the Scottish Government. The number of social work orders issued, and criminal justice social work reports submitted fell by 9% and 5% respectively between 2017-18 and 2018-19. The main driver in the fall in social work orders over this period was the 8% drop in community payback orders issued, from 17,900 to 16,400. Most community payback orders included a requirement for unpaid work or other activity (73%), and 58% included offender supervision.

## **Mental Health**

### [Consultation launched on mental health law review](#)

The Scottish Government has launched an independent review into mental health law, led by John Scott QC. The aim of the review is to improve the rights and protections of people affected by the mental health, incapacity or adult support and protection laws because they have, or used to have, a mental disorder. This includes carers or supporters of people affected by these laws. The review will be delivered in three phases, initially with a consultation that will run until 24 April. An interim report will be published by May 2020, which will identify priorities and an overall timeline for the next stage of the review.

### [Final report into mental health services at NHS Tayside published](#)



The Final Report of the Independent Inquiry into Mental Health Services in Tayside has been published. Led by David Strang CBE, the review was commissioned by NHS Tayside following concerns raised in the Scottish Parliament in May 2018 and includes 51 recommendations across topics such as: Governance and Leadership; Crisis and Community Mental Health Services; Inpatient Services; CAMHS; and Staff.

Ahead of publication, the Scottish Government [announced](#) a package of support measures that would be put in place. These will focus on improvements to service provision, clinical practice and organisational development. The Scottish Government will continue to monitor NHS Tayside's progress, working alongside COSLA to ensure health boards, local authorities and health and social care partnerships are supported to work together across Scotland to build on the report's recommendations.

### [Make Time to Talk about mental health](#)

Mental health charity See Me are co-hosting an event with Alliance Scotland on 6 February with the aim of getting everyone in the country talking about mental health. In partnership with anti-stigma programmes across the UK and Ireland, the charities are encouraging everyone to be more open about mental health – to talk, to listen, to change lives. A range of downloadable resources, activity and communication packs have been developed based on the popular game, 'Would you rather?'. See Me will also be hosting a day of music, mental health and art at the National Portrait Gallery in Edinburgh between 11am and 2pm on Thursday 6 February.

## **Older People**

### [Charity calls for end to health and social care Brexit uncertainty](#)

Ahead of the transition period that will shape Britain's future relationship with the EU, Age Scotland has compiled a set of priorities, which they say must be "resolved urgently" by the UK Government in order to offer protection and security to older people living in Scotland. In particular, the charity wants assurances that the health and social care sector will not be impacted by further staff shortages as a result of any changes to immigration rules. Other priorities set out include clarity on supply and access to medicines, residency and healthcare rights for those older Scots living in the EU, and assurances over settled status applications.

## **Other Health & Social Care**

### [SPSO publishes revised Model Complaints Handling Procedures](#)

Revised Model Complaints Handling Procedures (MCHPs) have been published by the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman (SPSO). Public bodies are required to implement the revised MCHPs over the coming business year, with full implementation by no later than 1 April 2021. The MCHPs were revised to standardise the core text across all of Scotland's public services and update the content in line with: feedback from organisations under SPSO's jurisdiction; issues identified from our casework; and recent research and good practice in relation to



using alternative resolution approaches, promoting positive complaint behaviours and improving access to complaints for vulnerable groups.

#### [New guidance on managing SDS and powers of attorney for adults with incapacity](#)

Fulfilling a commitment in the Self-directed Support Implementation Plan 2019-2021, the Scottish Government has published guidance and FAQs on the legal powers required to manage a social care budget on behalf of an adult who lacks capacity to take some, or all, decisions for themselves. The guidance considers how self-directed support, underpinned as it is by informed choice, applies to those who lack the capacity to choose.

#### [Findings of Health and Social Care Staff Experience survey published](#)

A Scottish Government survey of health and social care workers has found 78% of those who took part feel they are treated with dignity and respect, while 74% said they were treated fairly and consistently. The Health and Social Care Staff Experience Report 2019, a detailed analysis of the iMatter Continuous Improvement Model, is a survey of staff experience across NHS Scotland and health and social care partnerships. In 2019, all 22 health boards and 28 health and social care partnerships participated in the programme, with a response rate of 62%.

#### [Annual Digital Health and Care Conference Scotland](#)

Holyrood Conferences are hosting a free event on digital health and care at Dynamic Earth in Edinburgh on 25 and 26 February. Featuring a number of interactive presentations that showcase examples of success in eHealth, health and social care leaders will also discuss the challenges and opportunities that have come from implementing the Digital Health and Care Strategy and explore the next steps for improving digital health and social care in Scotland.

#### [Welsh Government to consider tax increases to pay for growing care costs \(Wales\)](#)

In a statement to the Welsh Assembly on the work of the inter-ministerial group on paying for social care, Minister for Health and Social Services Vaughan Gething reported that the group was exploring the introduction of funded non-residential care; a contribution towards the cost of residential care for those who pay the most; and funded personal care for anyone eligible. He added that the group was also exploring where investment could have the greatest impact, such as new models of care; offsetting elements of social care charges; and investment in the social care workforce. He acknowledged that all options would require additional investment and referenced the debate over the possibility of raising taxes to generate resources for social care. A consultation on this is due to be launched in the summer.

#### **Other**

#### [Latest annual local government benchmarking report published](#)

The latest annual benchmarking report for local government has been published by the Improvement Service. The Local Government Benchmarking Framework



provides evidence of trends in how councils allocate resources, the performance of key services and levels of public satisfaction with the major services provided and commissioned by councils. The report, covering 2018/19, features a section on adult social care, including data on the proportion of care services graded 'good' or better by the Care Inspectorate.

#### [Registration open for Carers Act learning event](#)

Registration is now open for the Carers Act Learning and Sharing event taking place in Edinburgh on 18 March. This free event is for those who play a role in commissioning or delivering support under the Act or involving carers in decision making. Delegates will have a chance to meet with and learn from others in different areas who have responsibility for the Act through plenary presentations and smaller workshop sessions. The event has been developed and supported by the Scottish Government, SSSC, NHS Education for Scotland, Healthcare Improvement Scotland, Carers Collaborative, the National Carer Organisations and the Care Inspectorate.

#### [Iriss event on evidence informed practice or service design](#)

Registration is now open for a free Iriss event taking place in Stirling on 2 March, focusing on finding, producing and using evidence in social services practice or service design. Aimed at managers and practitioners in local authority, third or private sector social services, delegates will have the opportunity to learn about evidence tools, explore Iriss' new Navigating Evidence toolkit, and learn from their peers about putting evidence into practice. There will be contributions on the day from the SSSC, Audit Scotland and the Care Inspectorate.

#### **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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