



Adult and Health



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Alcohol and Drugs

[Smoke-free target may not be met](#)

Cancer Research UK has published the results of their work on smoking prevalence projections which indicate that the 5% average adult smoking prevalence ('smoke-free') target set for England for 2030, and Scotland for 2034, may not be met. The figures reportedly suggest that England and Wales may not be smoke-free until 2037, late 2040s for Northern Ireland and after 2050 for Scotland.

[UK Minister comments on drug consumption rooms](#)

The BBC reports on comments by the UK Government's Minister for Crime, Kit Malthouse, on the proposals for drug consumption rooms, special facilities to allow users to take their own drugs under medical supervision. Mr Malthouse reportedly comments that research on drug consumptions rooms has had "mixed results" and that to him these rooms are "a bit of a distraction", whilst calling for more drug treatment alongside education and support.



Alzheimer's/Dementia

[Impact of dementia improvement programme](#)

NHS Education for Scotland has published 'Driving Improvements in Specialist Dementia Care', reporting on the impact of the Dementia Specialist Improvement Lead (DSIL) programme in four key areas: participants' own development, and their role in developing others, working with others, and supporting people with dementia, their families and carers. As well as exploring those four themes, the publication includes a series of case studies that provide illustrative examples of the impact of the DSIL role.

End of life and Palliative Care

[Taboo around discussing death, dying and living with a terminal illness](#)

Richard Meade of Marie Curie is discussing the taboo around discussing death, dying and living with a terminal illness, in healthandcare.scot. Mr Meade points out that the reluctance to discuss these subjects can have an impact on someone's ability to get the care and support they need, whether that's not making plans such as funeral plans or making wills, to not having an advanced care plan. The Marie Curie campaign looking to get more people talking about the end of life in a way that suits them is also highlighted, which encourage people to have these conversations to ensure that families and friends know what their wishes are and how to fulfil them.

Other Health and Social Care

[Project to look at data sharing and service design](#)

The Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (the ALLIANCE) will work in partnership with the Digital Health and Care Institute on a project looking at data sharing and service design. Commissioned by Nesta on behalf of the Scottish Government, the project aims to explore what matters to people's health and their views on sharing data on things other than clinical care, such as lifestyle and socio-economic context.

[Funding announcement for services tackling gender-based violence](#)

A new £13m fund to support organisations protecting women and girls from gender-based violence has been announced by the Scottish Government. The Delivering Equally Safe Fund will support frontline organisations, with a focus on prevention and early intervention. The funding represents an increase of £1m for services tackling gender-based violence.

[Budget passes Stage 1 following agreement with Greens](#)

The Scottish Government's Budget has passed Stage 1 of the parliamentary process following an agreement with the Scottish Green Party. The agreement will ensure a number of changes to the original proposals, including a National Concessionary



Travel scheme offering free bus travel for 18s and under and a further £95m in local government funding.

[Sexual incidents in adult social care and promoting sexual safety \(England\)](#)

A report has been published by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) on 'Promoting sexual safety through empowerment', which analyses notifications received from 1 March to 31 May 2018 that were about sexual incidents and gives recommendations for providers and leaders in adult social care, as well as for themselves as the regulator. Amongst the report's conclusions, the CQC highlights that a lack of awareness of good practice in sexual safety and sexuality can place people at risk of harm, and that a culture must be developed where people and staff feel empowered to talk about sexuality and raise concerns around safety.

Other

[New app could help reduce stress around autism assessment](#)

A new app could reduce the stress and anxiety associated with a potential autism diagnosis, according to its developers at the University of Edinburgh. Developed by the Salvesen Mindroom Research Centre, the Helping Hand app enables parents and carers of those referred for assessment to record relevant information, such as sleeping patterns and challenging behaviour, about their child. It is suggested that this could give clinicians a clearer insight into a child's behaviour and thereby reduce the stress on parents, carers and children. The app is currently being piloted in NHS Lothian but can be downloaded for free from all app stores and used by parents across Scotland.

[Events exploring how to tackle issues in health and care](#)

A series of Project Lift community events are being highlighted by the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC), which will explore how to tackle the most urgent issues in health and care and how to create a more sustainable way of working which enables different approaches that prevent new issues occurring, building resilience within yourselves, your teams and the system. The events are:

- Leadership for non-leaders in Glasgow on 26 February 2020 will examine what leadership actually means in your context and how it can improve what you do and feel about your work
- Self-care helps us deliver the best care in Stirling on 25 March 2020 aims to improve what you and your teams do by actively protecting their wellbeing
- Compassion at work: soothing the system in Aberdeen on 27 April 2020 will examine how compassionate leadership is important to delivering good health and social care – and that this type of leadership applies to all levels and parts of the system



Workforce

[Clarity on modern apprentices and SSSC registration](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) are clarifying that if an apprentice is working in a role that requires SSSC registration they need to register with the SSSC. Registration is required even if the apprentice is an extra member of staff and considered a trainee. A [new modern apprenticeship resource](#) from the SSSC also has information on how to support apprentices and create a positive learning experience.

[Workforce recruitment and immigration](#)

The National Director of Scottish Care, Karen Hedge, has written a blog on the social care workforce shortage, recruitment and immigration. Whilst discussing the issues facing the social care workforce, including shortages and recruitment problems, Ms Hedge highlights that decisions around immigration need to be based upon facts and evidence, removed from any political rhetoric, whilst focussing on prosperity and wellbeing.

[Module being developed to support strengths-based practice \(England\)](#)

The Social Care Institute for Excellence the University of Birmingham have been commissioned by the West Midlands Social Work Teaching Partnership to develop a post-qualifying module for practice leadership to support strengths-based practice in both children and families social care and adults social care. The module will be co-produced with leaders from local authorities across the West Midlands and people with lived experience. Available from Autumn 2020 the module aims to support practice leaders to demonstrate how they support an innovative culture, encourage practitioners to feel confident with taking professional autonomy and embedding coproduction, and how they develop excellent practitioners.



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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