




# Adult and Health



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## Alzheimer's/Dementia

### [New graduates from specialist dementia training programmes](#)

The tenth cohort of Dementia Champions and third cohort of Dementia Specialist Improvement Leads have graduated from specialist dementia training programmes aimed at improving the care and support for people living with dementia in Scottish hospitals and community settings. The Dementia Champions Programme, which is funded by the Scottish Government and delivered by the University of the West of Scotland in partnership with Alzheimer Scotland, teaches qualified health and social care professionals to become change agents in dementia care. This cohort takes the number of graduates of the programme, since its launch in 2010, to 1048 Dementia Champions and 121 Dementia Specialist Improvement Leads.



## Infection Prevention and Control

### [Revised notification guidance in light of coronavirus outbreak](#)

The Care Inspectorate, in light of the current outbreak of coronavirus COVID-19, has revised our notifications guidance with immediate effect and until further notice. The addition, which applies to all services, is as follows:

- providers must notify the Care Inspectorate within 24 hours of any suspected or known case or outbreak of coronavirus COVID-19 - this means one or more cases involving staff, people who use services, volunteers, visiting professionals, visitors or visiting contractors/suppliers that people within the service have had contact with

Your notification must include confirmation that you have:

- contacted your local health protection team as well as relevant NHS personnel (for example GP) for advice on any action you should take
- informed the health and social care partnership or local authority

### [First case of community transmission of coronavirus identified](#)

The first case of community transmission of coronavirus in Scotland has been identified through the enhanced surveillance scheme, Chief Medical Officer Catherine Calderwood has announced. Dr Calderwood said the first case of coronavirus unrelated to contact or travel “was to be expected” and Scotland remained in the containment phase.

### [Health Secretary updates Parliament on coronavirus](#)

Health Secretary Jeane Freeman has provided an update to the Scottish Parliament in the context of the “profound and escalating challenge” represented by the coronavirus outbreak. Ms Freeman confirmed that the total number of cases in Scotland had risen to 27, noting that this was four more cases than the day before, and that Scotland remained in the ‘containment’ phase. Ms Freeman said the Scottish Government expected to move towards the ‘delay phase’ “relatively soon” but stressed that the timing was critical around when particular measures are taken to “flatten the infection curve”. She said work was in hand “to ensure that the health and social care sector is as ready as it can be for any increase in the number of cases”. Responding to a supplementary question, the Health Secretary encouraged care homes to follow public health advice, adding that work is underway to establish what additional clinical and training support services will require.

### [Latest coronavirus guidance available](#)

The latest guidance on the coronavirus outbreak is available on the Health Protection Scotland COVID-19 page. Specific guidance documents been developed for a range of healthcare and non-healthcare settings.

## Justice



## [Justice Social Work Services in Dumfries and Galloway](#)

A report into how well community payback orders are implemented and managed in Dumfries and Galloway has been published by the Care Inspectorate. Between November and December 2019, inspectors looked at how the justice social work service in the area was delivering services for individuals who are, or have been, subject to community payback orders. Inspectors found that concerted efforts had been made to modernise the service, strengthen the workforce and improve performance. However, they also noted that the service “had yet to achieve lasting improvements in several key areas of performance, particularly in relation to unpaid work, where some measures were yet to meet local and national targets”.

## **Mental Health**

### [Call for inquiry into benefit-related deaths](#)

A number of mental health charities and the Royal College of Psychiatrists have jointly called for an independent inquiry into the deaths of vulnerable people who were reliant on welfare benefits, The Guardian reports. Twenty organisations have signed a statement highlighting concerns regarding the Department for Work and Pension’s policies and safeguarding processes, following a report by the National Audit Office which found that although there had been investigation of 69 cases of suicide linked to benefit issues in the last six years, officials did not know whether the lessons from those cases were ever learned or their recommendations implemented.

### [Ministerial statement on the independent inquiry into mental health services in Tayside](#)

Minister for Mental Health, Claire Haughey has provided an update to the Scottish Parliament in response to the publication last month of the independent inquiry into mental health services in Tayside (The Strang Report). Offering her apologies to patients in Tayside on behalf of the Government, she revealed work was underway to develop a “comprehensive action plan” for publication in June, detailing how each recommendation should be met.

The Minister also highlighted the recommendations around the delivery of mental health and wellbeing services with regards to health and social care integration. She said as a result of these recommendations, operational management of general adult psychiatry services would now be led by NHS Tayside, rather than the integration authority. She hoped this would provide clarity to local arrangements and improve services. She clarified that the Government would continue to engage with the Tayside Oversight group and a progress update would be published by the Chair of the Inquiry in February 2021.

## **Older People**

### [Age Scotland National Conference cancelled](#)

Age Scotland has taken the decision to cancel its national conference, due to be held in Glasgow on 25 March, in light of the ongoing coronavirus outbreak. Chief



Executive Brian Sloan, said the charity had a “duty of care and responsibility to the people who would be attending, many of whom would be older and might have pre-existing chronic conditions that could put them at greater risk.” He said the Age Scotland award winners, who were due to be announced at the conference, would be recognised later in the year.

## **Other Health and Social Care**

### [Call for funding to help Women’s Aid services meet demand](#)

Scottish Women’s Aid has called for national and local government to ensure “secure, long-term funding” for specialist domestic abuse services. According to the charity, the average funding reduction for local Women’s Aid groups was 10% in 2018/19, while the majority of groups experienced increased demand during that period. Chief Executive Dr Marsha Scott said both an increase in local funding and a long-term, stable funding plan was required so Scotland can meet the policy aims of the Equally Safe Strategy.

### [Research published on the influence of labour markets on the social care sector](#)

Independent research on the influence of national and local labour markets on the social care sector has been published by the Scottish Government. Conducted by ekosgen for the Scottish Government and COSLA, the study involved a literature and data review, as well as consultations with key stakeholders, to better understand the influences that national and local labour markets have on the social care sector, and how different parts of the sector interact. Case studies, a specific report for Early Learning and Childcare, and a report on implications for workforce planning, are included alongside the final report.

### [Westminster committee launches social care funding inquiry \(England\)](#)

An inquiry into social care funding has been launched by the Health and Social Care Committee at Westminster. The inquiry will seek to establish how much extra money would need to be spent by government in each of the next five years to counteract the impact of a shortage of care on the NHS. A call for evidence has been launched, with a deadline of 14 April.

### [Report on models of health and social care integration \(England and Wales\)](#)

A report looking at the history and models of integration of health and social care has been published by Westminster’s Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology (POST). The report provides a background on the history of integration in the UK (focusing predominantly on England and Wales), presents examples of some of the different models of integration currently being piloted, and describes challenges around assessment and evaluation.



## Other

### [Scottish Parliament nominates new auditor general](#)

The Scottish Parliament has nominated Stephen Boyle to become the new Auditor General for Scotland. Subject to the Queen's formal appointment, Mr Boyle will succeed the current Auditor General, Caroline Gardner, when her term finishes at the end of June. Mr Boyle is currently an audit director at Audit Scotland, leading its central government audit work, including the Scottish Government, the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body and the European Agricultural Funds Account. He is also the appointed auditor of the Scottish Police Authority, the Scottish Public Pension Agency and Registers of Scotland.

### [Disclosure \(Scotland\) Bill completes Stage 2](#)

The Disclosure (Scotland) Bill has been reprinted as amended at Stage 2. The Care Inspectorate (Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland) is listed as a "relevant regulatory body" within the Bill. The Bill restates and amends the law relating to the disclosure of criminal history and other information by Scottish Ministers, to make amendments to the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007 and for connected purposes.

## 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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