




Adult and Health



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Alzheimer's/Dementia

[Dementia Action Week \(15 – 21 May 2023\)](#)

The Alzheimer's Society is promoting Dementia Action Week (15 – 21 May 2023) by publishing research into dementia symptoms. The survey reportedly shows that one in three people who notice symptoms of dementia in themselves or a loved one keep their fears to themselves for over a month, over 23% of people have waited over six months before speaking to a medical professional, and 44% are scared people would speak down to them or their loved one after they were diagnosed, or treat them like a child.



Alzheimer's/Dementia

[Tenth anniversary and new executive director for Playlist for Life](#)

The music and dementia charity Playlist for Life has appointed a new executive director and are highlighting their tenth anniversary, reports Third Force News. Founded in 2013 by Sally Magnusson after the death of her mother, who lived with dementia, Playlist for Life aims to ensure that everyone living with dementia has a playlist of personal music and that everyone who cares for them knows how to use the playlist effectively. Michael Timmons has been appointed as executive director after previously serving as head of operations and deputy director before taking on the role of interim executive director in January 2023.

[Call for pubs to be more dementia friendly](#)

The Dementia Services Development Centre (DSDC) are looking for pubs to be become more dementia friendly and have launched a tool with guidance and advice, the 'Environments for Ageing and Dementia Design Assessment Tool (EADDAT).' EADDAT can be used by pubs and restaurants to understand how their space can be more supportive for people living with dementia and, if necessary, make small adjustments that can make the environment more accommodating.

End of life and palliative care

[Supporting good mouth care during end-of-life care](#)

The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) has published a resource for people receiving care, their relatives and those important to them, to help support good mouth care during end-of-life care. This resource has been created by the Mouth Care Matters in End-of-Life Care Steering Group, and covers why mouth care is important at end of life, products used and how to prepare for mouth care, things not to be used, and a poster.

Justice

[Report of the independent review of the Victim Notification Scheme](#)

The Scottish Government has published a report of the independent review of the Victim Notification Scheme (VNS). The VNS provides eligible victims information about an offender's release, and the chance to make representations about parole decisions. The report has identified gaps in mental health case processes, and how victims understand and are informed about safety planning in the community, and makes recommendations such as automatic referral of all eligible cases to a specialist team, who will then make personal contact with the victim, explain and answer questions and facilitate enrolment.



Other Health and Social Care

[Transition of social work from government to voluntary and charity sector](#)

The Common Weal has published a report on social work and its transition from being a matter of government social security to a task for volunteers and the charity sector, and examines key events in social care delivery.

[Using digital technology in healthcare](#)

The Nursing & Midwifery Council (NMC) has published a question and answer with two nurses about the use of digital technologies in healthcare and the benefit they have for people receiving care. Issues they cover include the potential benefits for people experiencing care, if introducing new technologies adds to workloads, and role of digital nursing in the future of the nursing profession.

Other

[Exploring the role of commissions and commissioners](#)

The Scottish Government has published the final report setting out findings from research exploring the role of commissions and commissioners in supporting rights in Scotland and the UK. The research will inform discussion and consultation about the potential creation of a Learning Disability, Autism and Neurodiversity Commissioner or Commission in Scotland, through the ongoing development of a new Learning Disability, Autism and Neurodiversity Bill.

[Overview of local government](#)

The Accounts Commission has published their overview of local government for 2023, covering finances and resources, community needs and inequalities, collaboration, leadership, and workforce. The overview reportedly shows that councils have never faced such a challenging situation, with demand and workforce pressures deepening after the Covid-19 pandemic and funding forecast to reduce in real terms. The Accounts Commission recommends that radical change, achieved through greater collaboration, is urgently needed if councils are to maintain services.

[Best Start threshold change to benefit more families](#)

The Scottish Government predicts an estimated 20,000 additional people will become eligible for support when income thresholds are removed for Best Start Foods payments. The benefit provides help to pregnant women or their partners as well as families with children aged up to three years old, so they can buy healthy food, milk or baby formula. It is currently paid to people who receive qualifying benefits, so long as their incomes are not above set thresholds. The Scottish Government will introduce regulations that remove those thresholds increasing eligibility for Best Start Foods to around an additional 20,000 people from February 2024.

**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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