




# Adult and Health



[Alcohol and Drugs](#)

[Alzheimer's/Dementia](#)

[Care Homes/Care at Home](#)

[Carers](#)

[Healthcare](#)

[Other Health & Social Care](#)

## Alcohol and Drugs

[New tobacco and vaping framework published by Scottish Government](#)

A framework setting out a roadmap on tobacco and vaping over the next ten years has been published by the Scottish Government. The document, which centres around the commitment to a tobacco-free generation by 2034, includes actions underpinned by a series of shorter action-focused 2-year implementation periods. As such, an initial implementation plan is included, running until November 2025. A new marketing [campaign](#) informing parents, carers and school pupils of the dangers of vaping has been launched alongside the framework.

## Alzheimer's/Dementia

[New SIGN guidance on assessment, diagnosis, care and support for people with dementia](#)

New guidance on the assessment, diagnosis, care and support for people with dementia and their carers has been published by SIGN. SIGN guideline 168 includes 67 evidence-based recommendations covering: the identification and diagnosis of dementia, investigative procedures, post-diagnostic support, non-pharmacological distressed behaviours, grief and dementia, the changing needs of people with dementia, and palliative approaches. A quick reference guide focusing on the recommendations will be published in December.



### [Discussion on use of AI in dementia support](#)

Alzheimer Scotland has published a summary of a recent discussion on the use of artificial intelligence (AI) approaches in dementia support. The Scottish Dementia Working Group met up to discuss AI, with a particular focus on two areas: Agent-based Memory Prosthesis to Encourage Reminiscence (the AMPER project) and digital avatars. While there was acceptance about the use and potential benefits of AI, a need for caution was noted alongside a feeling that AI should never, and could never, replace human to human interactions.

### **Care Homes/Care at Home**

#### [Care Home Census for adults in Scotland published](#)

The results of the annual Care Home Census have been published by Public Health Scotland. The publication, based on data provided by care homes via the Care Inspectorate's eForms system, provides information on the number of care homes, registered places, residents, admissions and discharges at national and local authority level, covering the period from 2012/13 to 2022/23. Among the main findings:

- On 31 March 2023, there were 1,037 care homes for adults and 40,502 registered places – 19% and 5% less, respectively, compared with 31 March 2013.
- On 31 March 2023, there were an estimated 34,365 residents aged 18 years and over in care homes – 6% less than on 31 March 2013 (36,578).
- The estimated percentage occupancy on 31 March 2023 was 85%, compared to 86% on 31 March 2013.
- On 31 March 2023, residents in care homes for older people accounted for 92% of residents in all care homes for adults (31,459 out of 34,365).

#### [National Care Home Award winners announced](#)

The National Care Home Awards 2023 took place on 17 November. The winners at the event are set out on the Scottish Care website.

#### [Scottish Care Autumn Bulletin published](#)

Scottish Care has published its Autumn Bulletin, featuring updates, information and stories from the sector.

### **Carers**

#### [Latest State of Caring report published by Carers Scotland](#)

Carers Scotland has published the results of the charity's annual State of Caring survey, in which over 1,700 Scottish unpaid carers took part in 2023. According to the report, 28% of carers said their mental health is bad or very bad, rising to 37% for carers on Carer's Allowance. Over a third (36%) said that they had thoughts



related to self-harm or suicide, while 54% said their physical health had suffered because of their caring role, with 20% suffering a physical injury from caring. Among a number of recommendations, the charity calls for a new dedicated national outcome on care, the development of a Carers Health Plan and the funding of dedicated, tailored mental health support for unpaid carers.

## Healthcare

### [Progress update on Hospital at Home programme](#)

A progress update on the Hospital at Home programme has been published by Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS). According to the update, Hospital at Home services have prevented over 7,000 people in Scotland from spending time in hospital between April and September 2023, a 33% increase compared with the same period in 2022. The update suggests the expansion of the programme now means 27 health and social care partnerships either have a Hospital at Home service or are working towards developing one.

### [HIS to deliver new app-based service supporting clinical and care decision making](#)

A new app-based service to support the best clinical and care decision making is to be delivered by Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS). The service, the first of its kind in the UK, marks the next stage of the development and roll-out of the Right Decision Service (RDS) as it transfers to HIS from the Digital Health & Care Innovation Centre.

## Workforce

### [Five Nations Care Forum sets out steps to sustainable social care workforce](#)

A communique issued by the Five Nations Care Forum has highlighted eight steps to a sustainable social care workforce. The Forum, an alliance of the professional associations representing the care sector across the UK and Ireland, suggests eight priority areas intended to serve as a foundation for a strengthened social care workforce: a valued workforce; continuous training and professional development; diversity and inclusion initiatives; mental health and wellbeing support; technology integration; collaboration and interdisciplinary teams; flexible working arrangements; recognition and rewards.

### [NQSW Supported Year expanding to more areas, SSSC announces](#)

A further 10 local authority areas have received grant funding to help implement the Newly Qualified Social Worker (NQSW) Supported Year, the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has announced. The grants, which help embed the NQSW Supported Year and share learning and resources across the sector as the work develops, were awarded by a panel with representatives from the SSSC, the Office of the Chief Social Work Adviser, COSLA and the Coalition of Care and Support Providers in Scotland.



## Other Health and Social Care

### [Roadmap offers guidance in creating trauma-informed and responsive change](#)

A roadmap and guidance for creating trauma-informed and responsive change has been published by the National Trauma Transformation Programme. The roadmap is part of a broader series of resources available through the programme, which supports the Scottish Government and COSLA's shared ambition for a trauma-informed workforce and services across Scotland. The resource has two key sections: an overview of what good looks like and a self-assessment checklist.

### [Carer Support Payment pilot open to new applications](#)

The Carer Support Payment pilot is open for new applications, the Scottish Government has confirmed. Unpaid carers in Perth and Kinross, Dundee City and Na h-Eileanan Siar are able to apply for the payment, which is replacing Carer's Allowance in Scotland. Carers in more local authority areas will be able to apply from spring 2024 as part of the phased roll-out, with the benefit to be available nationally by autumn 2024. Carers in Scotland who get Carer's Allowance will have their awards transferred to Carer Support Payment 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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