

9-15 February 2024



bulletin


Adult
and
Health**Alcohol and Drugs**

[Residential Rehabilitation programme \(2021–2026\) evaluation report published](#)

Public Health Scotland (PHS) has published findings from the baseline phase of its evaluation of the Scottish Government Residential Rehabilitation programme. The programme was launched in January 2021 and looks to improve access to residential rehab for those who use alcohol and drugs. It is part of the National Mission to reduce drug deaths and improve the lives of people impacted by drugs. The report provides an evaluation of the early impacts of the programme, including the impact on access to rehab, and lessons learnt so far. It also notes the key limitations around evaluating the impact of the programme, including the lack of Scotland-wide baseline data, however it states that the findings suggest that the programme is helping deliver improvements.

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Alzheimer's/Dementia

[Alzheimer's Society responds to dementia blood biomarker study](#)

The Alzheimer's Society has responded to a new study which suggests that a blood test that looks for changes in certain proteins could predict dementia up to 15 years before diagnosis. Dr Richard Oakley, Associate Director of Research and Innovation at Alzheimer's Society, said "It's very early days and lots more work is needed but this could lay the groundwork for the early prediction of dementia and teach us more about how to provide an early and accurate diagnosis". Mr Oakley also highlighted work with Alzheimer's Research UK on the Blood Biomarker Challenge.

Disabilities

[Disability Commissioner Bill introduced to Parliament](#)

Jeremy Balfour MSP has introduced the Disability Commissioner (Scotland) Bill to Parliament. The Bill aims to establish a Disability Commissioner for Scotland whose primary purpose will be to promote and safeguard the rights of disabled people. The Commissioner's functions, as set out in the Bill, would include promoting awareness and understanding of the rights of disabled people as well as reviewing law, policy and practice relating to the rights of disabled people, and promoting best practice.

Justice

[Progress report on implementing the recommendations from the Independent Review of the Response to Deaths in Prison Custody](#)

A second progress report on the implementation of the recommendations made by the Independent Review of the Response to Deaths in Prison Custody has been published. Gillian Imery, external chair tasked with overseeing the implementation of the recommendations and advisory points made by the Review, has raised concerns around the delivery of the key recommendation from the Review, noting that the proposed new independent investigative process would further complicate a system that is already difficult for families to navigate. In the report, Ms Imery also notes that out of 19 recommendations made by the Review 8 have been completed, with another partially complete, two of the six advisory points have been addressed and the key recommendation is work in progress.

Other Health and Social Care

[The ALLIANCE set to run a series of impact visits to member organisations](#)

The Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (the ALLIANCE) will be running a series of impact visits to member organisations in March this year. The impact visits are an extension to the ALLIANCE annual conference and will showcase third sector organisations working to enable and empower local communities to deliver long-term, sustainable change. The details of two impact visits have been announced and those interested in attending can register through the ALLIANCE.



[Scottish Government ministerial appointments](#)

Following the resignation of Michael Matheson and Elena Whitham last week, the First Minister has confirmed the appointment of Neil Gray as Cabinet Secretary for NHS Recovery, Health and Social Care and Christina McKelvie as Minister for Drugs and Alcohol Policy. The reshuffle also included the appointment of Kaukab Stewart as Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development.

Workforce

[Survey launched on tackling racism in the health and social workforce](#)

The ALLIANCE has highlighted work by the Coalition for Racial Equality and Rights (CRER) in tackling racism in the health and social care workforce. CRER has been commissioned by the Scottish Government to design and develop a suite of anti-racism capacity building resources for everyone working in organisations within the health and social care sector in Scotland. CRER is inviting those working in the sector to share their experiences through an online survey which will be open until 19 February 2024.

[CCPS urges Scottish Government to set the basic rate for social care pay to over £13](#)

The Coalition of Care and Support Providers in Scotland (CCPS) has produced a briefing for MSPs on Fair Work for Scotland's social care and support staff urging the Scottish Government to set the basic rate for social care pay above the Real Living Wage, to at least £13 per hour from April 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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