



Adult and Health



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Adults with Incapacity

[Consultation launched on changes to Adults with Incapacity \(Scotland\) Act 2000](#)

A consultation on proposed changes to the Adults with Incapacity (Scotland) Act 2000 (AWI Act) has been launched by the Scottish Government. The first step in a wider programme of work to reform mental health and incapacity law in Scotland over the next ten years, the consultation builds on earlier AWI Act consultations, takes into account the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability, and recognises European and Supreme Court deprivation of liberty rulings. Included among the aims of proposed changes are: improved access to justice for adults affected by the AWI Act; a shift in the focus of the AWI Act to one that truly centres on the adult; enabling adults to access rights more easily; and ensuring adults are supported to make and act upon their own decisions for as long as possible. The consultation closes on 17 October 2024.

Health

[Adverse Weather and Health Plan 2024-2027 published by PHS](#)

Public Health Scotland (PHS) has published a three-year Adverse Weather and Health Plan to protect the population from the negative health and wellbeing impacts of adverse weather. The plan includes seven action areas for delivery, including advice and guidance on protection of public health during adverse weather



events, and training and development, including for health and social care staff. A detailed action plan is to be developed.

Mental Health

[Joint report on human rights in prisons and forensic mental health settings](#)

A joint report on prisons and forensic mental health settings in Scotland has been published by the Scottish Human Rights Commission and UK National Preventive Mechanism. The report identifies ten areas of concern, including mental health, segregation and deaths in custody, and found little progress has been made in achieving 29 international human rights recommendations. The report describes the lack of progress as “unacceptable” and calls for urgent action to address the human rights concerns highlighted.

Workforce

[SSSC to issue Practice Learning Support Grant to eligible social work students](#)

Social work students undertaking practice learning placements will be issued a grant of £750 to support them, the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has confirmed. With funding from the Scottish Government, the SSSC will pay the Practice Learning Support Grant directly to eligible students starting an assessed practice placement from August this year.

[NMC responds to independent review of its culture, accepting all recommendations](#)

The Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) has set out steps towards change having accepted all the recommendations made in an independent review of its culture. The review [highlighted](#) safeguarding concerns, and found that people working in the organisation have experienced racism, discrimination and bullying. The NMC has set out short-term, medium-term and long-term actions to address the review’s recommendations, with enhanced oversight by the Professional Standards Authority.

- The NMC has also published its [annual report and accounts](#) for 2023-24. The NMC permanent register had 826,418 nurses, midwives and nursing associates which is an increase of 4.8% since March last year.

[New workforce strategy for adult social care \(England\)](#)

A new workforce strategy for adult social care in England has been published by Skills for Care. The workforce development body worked in collaboration with other organisations, with commitments from bodies such as the Care Quality Commission included in the strategy. Recommendations for government include: joined-up and consistent action to improve pay, terms and conditions; continued and consistent investment in training and clear career pathways; legislation to mandate strategic workforce planning and a central body to drive delivery.



Other Health and Social Care

[Provider information for regulated services](#)

Based on feedback from providers and our learning over the past year, we have updated our [guidance for providers of regulated care settings and the public](#). The update expands on some of the existing sections where providers have told us they would like more detailed or additional information, clarified some points that had caused confusion, and includes more information about how to give feedback, raise concerns and on our overall approach to inspections.

We have also published new, formal [guidance on our approach to scrutiny and improvement](#). Whilst this would normally be an internal guidance document, we are also making it available externally to support transparency. Much of the information in this guidance is focussed on collating and formalising our existing practices and values. This is also to reflect learning from the [Ruth Perry: Prevention of future deaths report \(Regulation 28\)](#), especially regarding management of staff anxiety and distress during inspections.

[Accounts Commission reports on IJB finance and performance](#)

A report on the finance and performance of integration joint boards (IJBs) has been published by the Accounts Commission. The report highlights the “unprecedented” pressures and financial uncertainty faced by community health and social care, and suggests managing the crisis is taking precedence over prevention. The report includes a number of key messages, including a lack of evidence of the shift in the balance of care from hospitals to the community, as well as a general decline in performance, although it is suggested that data quality and availability is insufficient to fully assess IJB performance, alongside a lack of joined up data sharing. Among its recommendations, the report emphasises the need for whole-system collaborative working and service redesign focused on early intervention and prevention.

[Analysis of views on what needs to change to support social work](#)

An analysis of views on what needs to change to support social work in Scotland has been published following a collaboration between Social Work Scotland, the Scottish Association of Social Work and Unison. A survey put together by Dr Gillian MacIntyre and Dr Ailsa Stewart of the University of Strathclyde took a series of statements across three headings (the purpose of social work, how we work and leading and supporting social work) and asked social workers to what extent the statements reflected their experience of social work in Scotland in 2024. According to the analysis, underlying many of the comments received was a concern to uphold and recognise the values of the profession, and the impact experienced when those values were diluted, eroded or impossible to uphold due to lack of resources or workload pressures. It is hoped the findings will inform the development of a National Social Work Agency and its priorities.



[Final report on future of supported housing published](#)

A Scottish Government and COSLA appointed group has published its final report on the future of supported housing as a response to homelessness in Scotland. The Supported Housing Task and Finish Group recommends that national and local emergency plans should prioritise work focused on reducing temporary accommodation and the better targeting of shared and supported forms of housing. Co-chaired by Homeless Network Scotland Chief Executive Maggie Brunjes and Scottish Federation of Housing Associations Policy Lead Eileen McMullan, the report also calls for a joint funding and commissioning model between health and social care partnerships and local authorities, to break the 'care group' stigma attached to supported housing's legacy as shared 'homeless' accommodation. One of the common themes identified in the report describes the role of the regulators as "key to improvement in homelessness services, specifically the Scottish Housing Regulator and Care Inspectorate".

[NES launches stakeholder survey for 2024](#)

NHS Education for Scotland (NES) has launched its stakeholder survey for 2024, asking for feedback to understand more about learning and support needs, and to help identify areas to focus on in the future. The survey will take approximately five minutes to complete and closes on Wednesday 21 August.

[Insight paper explores how Integrated Care Systems can work better \(England\)](#)

The Institute for Government has published a paper exploring how new arrangements can enable Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) to work better. The paper explores tensions between centralism and localism, and the relationships between the Treasury, the Department of Health and Social Care, the Cabinet Office, NHS England and ICSs. It highlights an opportunity for the new UK Government to change relationships between the different bodies, and notes that for ICSs to fulfil their potential, a change in behaviour is needed.

[Care Inspectorate Wales publishes ratings action plan \(Wales\)](#)

The Care Inspectorate Wales has published a plan on how it will implement ratings for care homes and domiciliary support services. The plan takes into account recommendations outlined in an independent evaluation of silent ratings and outlines steps to be taken before consulting on draft regulations which will require ratings for care home and domiciliary support services to be published from 1 April 2025.

**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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