



Adult and Health



[Adult Support and Protection](#)

[Alcohol and Drugs](#)

[Alzheimer's/Dementia](#)

[Disabilities](#)

[Health and Social Care Integration](#)

[Justice](#)

[Workforce](#)

[Other Health & Social Care](#)

Adult Support and Protection

[Progress report following adult support and protection joint inspections](#)

A report on the progress made in adult support and protection by six Scottish partnerships since 2017 has found that, overall, priority areas for improvement were positively addressed. The report, which focuses on Dundee, North Ayrshire, East Dunbartonshire, Aberdeenshire, Highland and Midlothian, was published today by the Care Inspectorate, Healthcare Improvement Scotland and His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland. Inspectors found that although there had been improvement in key processes for adult support and protection, there were still some areas that required further improvement, including chronologies, risk assessment and risk management plans.

Alcohol and Drugs

[Latest statistics on drug misuse deaths](#)

New statistics on drug misuse deaths have been published by the National Records of Scotland. According to the figures, 1,172 people died due to drug misuse in 2023, an increase of 121 deaths on figures from 2022 but the second lowest number of drug misuse deaths since 2017. Opiates and opioids, including heroin, morphine and methadone were implicated in 80% of all deaths, while people in the most deprived areas of Scotland are more than 15 times as likely to die from drug misuse compared to people in the least deprived areas.



[UK's first official drugs consumption room to open in Glasgow in October](#)

The UK's first official drugs consumption room is to open in Glasgow on 21 October, the BBC reports. The £2.3m facility will be based in the Hunter Street Health and Social Care Centre and will allow drug users to inject drugs such as heroin under the supervision of health professionals. The centre will be able to accommodate 30 users at one time and will be open 365 days a year.

[Drugs and Alcohol Policy Minister takes leave to receive cancer treatment](#)

Drugs and Alcohol Minister Policy Christina McKelvie is to take a period of leave while she undergoes treatment for secondary breast cancer, the Scottish Government has confirmed. Ms McKelvie's Ministerial duties will be covered by Health Secretary Neil Gray and Public Health Minister Jenni Minto in the short term.

Alzheimer's/Dementia

[Benefits of new Alzheimer's treatment too small to justify cost, according to NICE](#)

Draft guidance by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has recommended that a new Alzheimer's disease treatment cannot be considered a cost effective use of limited NHS funding. Lecanemab is the first medicine to be licensed in the UK that has been shown to slow down progression of the disease, by between 4 and 6 months. However, according to a draft NICE recommendation out for consultation, the costs of providing the treatment combined with the relatively small benefits it provides means it cannot be considered good value for the taxpayer.

Disabilities

[Thematic review of Disabled children and young people's experiences of social work services – thematic review](#)

The Care Inspectorate has published a thematic review which considers how well social work services contribute to ensuring disabled children have their rights respected and receive early care and support. Inspectors found too many disabled children and their families in Scotland are not receiving the help they needed at the right time. When children and young people received the right support, this helped them to grow and develop. Among the key messages, we found that the experience of transitioning into life as a young adult continues to be characterised by unpredictability and uncertainty for too many disabled young people.

Health and Social Care Integration

[Responses to call for evidence on IJB finances](#)

Responses to a call for evidence on the financial position of integration joint boards have been published by a parliamentary committee. As part of its pre-budget scrutiny for 2025-26, the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee sought views on the context and challenges for IJBs, performance against national health and



wellbeing outcomes, and the financial outlook for IJBs currently and in the future. 25 responses have been published in total.

[Anthology of Connected Communities case studies launched](#)

An anthology of case studies on Connected Communities has been launched by the ALLIANCE. The anthology brings together all the case studies published as part of the Connected Communities series, which is designed to recognise, celebrate and learn from the achievements and successes of third sector organisations who support the development of health and social care integration.

Justice

[Latest update to delivery plan for National Strategy for Community Justice](#)

The latest update to the delivery plan for the National Strategy for Community Justice has been published by the Scottish Government. The second update following the delivery plan's publication, the publication covers January to March 2024 and outlines the work completed or underway for each of the deliverables for this period. An update is provided on the action to implement the Community Justice Performance Framework, the Improvement Tool and the updated self-evaluation model for community justice.

Workforce

[Film launched to support dealing with death and bereavement at work](#)

A film on dealing with death and bereavement at work has been launched by the NES Bereavement Education Programme. Developed with colleagues from NHS Grampian, the film highlights the experiences of staff as they encounter situations involving death and bereavement in the course of their work. The film can be used by individuals or groups as a reflective tool in relation to the impact death and bereavement can have on all team members, and how staff can look after themselves and their colleagues.

[RCN calls for urgent investigation into reported migrant care worker exploitation](#)

The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) has called for the UK Government to launch an urgent investigation into reports of migrant care worker exploitation. The RCN reports that it handled 134 calls from members about the use of repayment clauses in 2023/24, a six-fold increase since 2020/21. Professor Nicola Ranger, RCN General Secretary and Chief Executive, suggested the figures were “the tip of the iceberg” and called for the Home Secretary to deliver an investigation “with urgency”.

[SSSC Council Members appointed](#)

The Minister for Children, Young People and the Promise has announced the appointment of Jillian Brannan, David Heaney and Frank Reilly as Council Members of the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC).



[NHS staff offered 5.5% pay increase](#)

Nurses and healthcare staff across Scotland have been offered a pay increase of 5.5% for 2024-25, the Scottish Government has confirmed. The offer, if accepted by trade unions, will be backdated to 1 April 2024. RCN Scotland has confirmed it is to consult its members on the offer.

Other Health and Social Care

[JRF briefing on the future of care needs in the UK](#)

A briefing on the future of care needs in the UK has been published by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF). In an analysis of the period 2016-22, the JRF found that over half of people aged 65 and over who were being cared for only accessed informal care, a quarter accessed both formal and informal, and just under a fifth only accessed formal care. The JRF also found that rates of very high-intensity care (35 hours+ per week) are higher in the UK now than 10 years ago. The briefing calls for action, including the establishment of a Future Care Needs Taskforce, to enable “real choice in the system” in order to fit “the right blend of informal and formal care to people’s individual needs”.

[Records Management Code of Practice published](#)

A Records Management Code of Practice for Health and Social Care has been published by the Scottish Government. The document provides a guide to the required standards of practice in the management of data, information and records for those who work within or under contract to NHS organisations in Scotland.

[Carer Support Payment extended to other areas ahead of full rollout](#)

The Carer Support Payment, the replacement for Carer’s Allowance, is now available in Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire, Fife, Moray and North, East and South Ayrshire. The benefit, previously available in the pilot areas of Perth and Kinross, Dundee City, Na h-Eileanan Siar, Angus and North and South Lanarkshire, will be available across all of Scotland from 4 November.

[Iriss reflects on its impact and sets out plans for 2024/25](#)

Iriss has published a number of documents looking at the impact of the organisation, the changes it has seen across the sector and the organisation’s plans moving forward. Plans for 2024/25 include: support for innovation in social work and social care, improvement support for Adult Support and Protection, and targeted support for ethical commissioning.

[Audit Scotland says public bodies must do more to address digital exclusion](#)

Public bodies must do more to address digital exclusion, according to a report published by Audit Scotland. The report looks at how well the public sector in Scotland is tackling digital exclusion and what more they can do to ensure everyone can access the services they need. The report calls for the Scottish Government and



COSLA to set out clear ambitions and an action plan for how they will address digital exclusion, with clarity on what they want to achieve and who is responsible.

[Chief Medical Officer publishes Annual Report](#)

The Chief Medical Officer for Scotland Professor Sir Gregor Smith has published his 2023-24 Annual Report and the eighth report on Realistic Medicine. The report outlines key themes across understanding what matters to patients, ensuring the right balance between science and the art of care, embedding kindness and compassion at the heart of care, collaborating effectively, using resources efficiently to provide sustainable care and measuring the most relevant outcomes.

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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