




Adult and Health



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Alzheimer's/Dementia

[Charity calls for stronger support services as figures show rise in dementia deaths](#)

In light of the latest figures by the National Records of Scotland (NRS) showing a rise in deaths caused by Alzheimer's disease and other dementias in 2023, Age Scotland has called for stronger care and support services for people living with dementia and their families. The charity highlights the gender disparity in dementia related death and disparities in dementia related deaths for those living in the most deprived areas of Scotland. [Alzheimer Scotland](#) has called for investment in new treatments and prevention programmes, and highlighted the recently published findings by the Lancet Commission which found that almost half of dementia cases could be preventable.

[New campaign launched to address stigma around dementia](#)

The Scottish Government and COSLA have launched Rethink Dementia, a new campaign challenging people to think differently about dementia and those who have been diagnosed. Research shows that staying connected and socially active can help people living with dementia stay well for longer. People are encouraged to continue doing everyday activities with friends or relatives who have been diagnosed with dementia.



End of Life/ Palliative Care

[New research highlights experiences at the end of life \(England & Wales\)](#)

Research funded by Marie Curie has found that in England and Wales, one in three dying people were severely or overwhelmingly affected by pain in the last week of life. The [final report](#) from the Marie Curie Better End of Life programme includes the findings from a national post-bereavement survey conducted in 2023 and shows that almost half of the survey respondents in the study were unhappy with at least one aspect of the care the person who died received. Marie Curie is now calling on the UK and Welsh governments to fix end of life care.

Other Health and Social Care

[Chief Social Work Officer survey report 2023-24](#)

Social Work Scotland (SWS) has published the findings from its latest Chief Social Work Officer survey. The report provides an analysis of responses from all 32 CSWOs across Scotland and provides insight into the experiences of those in the CSWO role. The report highlights the key challenges faced by CSWOs, including workload and competing priorities, staffing and recruitment issues, and the financial climate. The report also notes other challenges raised by CSWOs such as the uncertainty in relation to the National Care Service.

[Scottish Care Strategy 2024-2029](#)

Scottish Care has published its annual report for 2023-24 and launched a new 5 year strategy for 2024-29. The annual report highlights the organisation's work and achievements in the past year, including contributing to the debate around the development of the National Care Service, supporting members with changes in SSSC Registration, supporting implementation of new Health and Care Staffing legislation, and hosting a number of conferences and awards events.

Other

[Programme for Government 2024-25](#)

Yesterday, the First Minister John Swinney provided a [statement](#) to the Scottish Parliament on the Programme for Government 2024-25, setting out the Scottish Government's commitments for the next 12 months. The four priorities identified in the Programme for Government are: eradicating child poverty, growing the economy, tackling climate emergency, and ensuring high quality and sustainable public. Amongst other commitments, the Scottish Government has pledged to tackle delayed discharges, increase NHS Boards' baseline funding to reduce waiting list backlogs and complete the national rollout of the Carer Support Payment.



Workforce

[SSSC forums for Newly Qualified Social Workers undertaking a Supported Year](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) is hosting quarterly forums to support the implementation of the Newly Qualified Social Worker (NQSW) Supported Year, which comes into effect from 1 October 2024. The forums are aimed at newly qualified social workers (NQSWs) who are undertaking a supported year, those supervising NQSWs and employers and strategic leads for NQSWs. Registration is now open for the first forums.

**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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