

20 – 26 September 2024



bulletin



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and
Health



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Alzheimer's/Dementia

[Applications open for dementia improvement programme](#)

Applications are now open for hospital and care home services to join a reducing stress and distress improvement programme being run by Healthcare Improvement Scotland, the Care Inspectorate and NHS Education for Scotland. Launching in December 2024, the programme will work with teams across hospitals and care home settings to support improvement in the prevention and support of stress and distress for people living with dementia. Applications are invited by 1 November 2024.



Care Homes/Care at Home

[Statistics on people requiring a social care assessment and care at home services](#)

Public Health Scotland has published statistics on the total number of individuals waiting for an assessment for social care services, the number of people waiting for a package of care at home and the number of hours of care that are being waited for. Key findings include that the number of people estimated to be waiting on a social care assessment to enable them to live independently at home or in the community was 6,160 on 2 September 2024, and the estimated number of people assessed and waiting for a care at home package was 3,147 on 2 September 2024.

Housing

[Stage 1 report on Parts 5 and 6 of the Housing Bill](#)

The Social Justice and Social Security Committee has published 'Stage 1 Report on Housing (Scotland) Bill: Part 5 (homelessness prevention) and Part 6 (other housing matters - fuel poverty)', which recognises the legislation presents an opportunity to move away from crisis management towards prevention. The report notes Part 5 of the Bill proposes to place a duty on relevant bodies to ask if an individual is homeless or at risk of homelessness and to take action if they are but questions how the Scottish Government will ensure relevant bodies do not just refer people to the homelessness officers in their local authority. Whilst the Committee recommends the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee support Parts 5 and 6 of the Bill, they ask for additional information.

Justice

[Statistics on justice social work activity](#)

The Scottish Government has published national level information on many aspects of justice social work activity, as well as the characteristics of individuals involved. Key findings include that the number of diversion from prosecution cases commenced rose by 28% between 2022-23 and 2023-24 from 2,600 to 3,400, and the number of bail supervision cases rose by 17% between 2022-23 and 2023-24 to 1,300.

[Introduction of criminal justice modernisation and abusive domestic behaviour Bill](#)

The Scottish Government has introduced the Criminal Justice Modernisation and Abusive Domestic Behaviour Reviews (Scotland) Bill, which aims to make changes in relation to procedures in criminal courts, and also introduces a process for reviewing deaths which relate to abusive behaviour within relationships. Part 1 makes changes in relation to procedures in criminal courts. Some of these changes were introduced on a temporary basis through the Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020 and the Coronavirus (Recovery and Reform) (Scotland) Act 2022, the Bill makes these permanent. Part 2 of the Bill creates a process for reviewing deaths which relate to abusive behaviour within relationships, and these reviews should look at



what lessons can be learnt in relation to a death to try to stop similar things happening again. The Bill also creates an oversight committee and case review panels to undertake and manage the reviews.

Mental Health

[Figures on welfare guardianship orders](#)

The Mental Welfare Commission (MWC) has published figures on the numbers of people living with a welfare guardianship order in March 2024. Reportedly, a total of 4,009 guardianship orders were granted in 2023-24, 12.9%% more than in 2022-23, and 92% were new orders with the remainder renewals. The most common primary diagnosis was learning disability (49%), followed by dementia (35%). The Mental Welfare Commission publishes this information annually as part of its statutory role to monitor the use of the Adults with Incapacity Act.

Older People

[Final proposal lodged for Commissioner for Older People Bill](#)

A final proposal has been lodged for a Proposed Commissioner for Older People (Scotland) Bill. The Member's Bill, proposed by Colin Smyth MSP, aims to establish an independent commissioner to promote and safeguard the rights and interests of older people. A [summary of consultation responses](#) has also been published.

Other Health and Social Care


[Posters on complaining confidentially with the Care Inspectorate](#)

We have designed new posters for services to display in their settings beside their registration certificate with information on how people can make complaints confidentially. We want to encourage people that they can complain to us confidentially and that their personal details are safe. We have two posters available to download, one for early learning and childcare/children and young people's services and another for adult and older people's services.

[Health and Social Care Winter Preparedness Plan 2024/25](#)

The Scottish Government has published its Health and Social Care Winter Preparedness Plan 2024/25. The plan has been published a month ahead of last year to allow more time for NHS Boards and care providers to prepare for winter surges in demand. The Plan sets out four priorities:

- Priority One: Prioritise care for all people in our communities, enabling people to live well with the support they choose and utilise effective prevention to keep people well, avoiding them needing hospital care.
- Priority Two: Ensure people receive the right care, in the right place at the right time, this includes prioritising care at home, or as close to home as possible, where clinically appropriate.

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- Priority Three: Maximise capacity and capability to meet demand and maintain integrated health, social care and social work services, protecting planned and established care, to reduce long waits and unmet need.
 - Priority Four: Focus on supporting the wellbeing of our health and social care workforce, their capacity and improving retention, as well as valuing and supporting Scotland's unpaid carers.

[Findings of National Care Service workforce charter published](#)

The Scottish Government has published a workforce charter summary of co-design findings on the National Care Service (NCS). The co-design work has focused on different themes, including the workforce, and the findings examine ways in which a National Care Service workforce charter could support workforces to feel engaged, valued and supported. Information on the [co-design of the draft NCS charters](#) of rights and responsibilities has also been published. Easy read versions of the [workforce charter](#) and the [charter of rights and responsibilities](#) have also been published.

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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