



Adult and Health



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Alcohol and Drugs

[Drug-related death database 2019-20](#)

Public Health Scotland has released analysis of drug-related deaths registered in 2019 and 2020. The database shows the average age of people whose death was registered as drug-related was 43 and over half of the people who died lived in the 20% most deprived areas in Scotland. The statistics also show 602 children were reported to have lost a parent or parental figure as a result of a drug-related death in 2019 and 2020.

[Safer consumption room opening delayed](#)

The opening date of the first Safer Drugs Consumption Facility in the UK has been delayed. The facility in Glasgow was due to open on 21 October but further public safety checks are needed. The facility will allow people to consume illegal drugs under the supervision of clinicians 365 days a year from 09:00 until 21:00.



Care Homes/Care at Home

[Research on social care commissioning and procurement](#)

The Coalition of Care and Support Providers in Scotland (CCPS) has published two reports on social care commissioning and procurement. The first report offers a scoping literature review of evidence on ethical commissioning, which summarises the context for strategic planning, commissioning and procurement of adult social care in Scotland. An accompanying study presents qualitative research from interviews with national and local stakeholders involved in commissioning and procurement.

[Applications open for reducing stress and distress improvement programme](#)

The Care Inspectorate has opened applications for registered care home services to join its new reducing stress and distress improvement programme. This programme is a collaboration between the Care Inspectorate, Healthcare Improvement Scotland and NHS Education for Scotland. The programme will work with teams in registered care homes (grade 3 or above) to support improvement in the prevention and management of stress and distress for people living with dementia.

[Study highlights extent of private outsourcing of care \(England\)](#)

Oxford University has published new research highlighting the extent and impact of for-profit social care provision in England. The study, which looks at both the adult social care and children's sectors, suggests 96% of adult's residential care services are now outsourced, primarily to for-profit providers, while 80% of children's residential care homes are now run by for-profit companies. The report also highlights that public and third-sector providers consistently receive higher regulatory inspection ratings than the private sector, while for-profit operators experience more frequent involuntary closures and cancellations by the Care Quality Commission and Ofsted.

Mental Health

[National review of mental health and suicide prevention training provision](#)

Public Health Scotland (PHS) has completed a review of current provision of mental health and suicide prevention learning. In a final report, PHS recommends a more strategic approach to the oversight of learning programmes and provision of a broad range of evidence-informed programmes which support the priorities in national strategies. The review also found understanding of and access to learning programmes must be improved.

[World Mental Health Day 2024](#)

Today (10 October) is World Mental Health Day and the theme set by the World Federation of Mental Health this year is workplace mental health. The theme highlights the importance of addressing mental health and wellbeing in the



workplace, for the benefit of people, organisations, and communities. Public Health Scotland have posted [a blog](#) on mentally healthy workplaces.

Other Health and Social Care

[Committee reports on inquiry into rural and remote health and social care](#)

The Scottish Parliament's Health, Social Care and Sport Committee has published a report on its inquiry into access to and delivery of healthcare services in remote and rural areas. The inquiry found recruitment and retention of staff is one of the major challenges to effective delivery of services, with additional factors such as availability of housing, and access to education and training, contributing to the recruitment issues. The Committee also highlights evidence of acute pressures on the provision of social, palliative and end of life care services in remote and rural areas and warns that the tendency of an ageing population increasingly living in more remote and rural areas of the country will mean demand for these services will increase significantly in the years ahead.

[Consultation seeks views on developing a universal definition of 'care experience'](#)

A consultation exploring the need for a universal and inclusive definition of 'care experience' and its potential impacts has been launched by the Scottish Government. The consultation seeks views on the potential advantages and disadvantages of developing a definition of care experience, as well as the potential scope of a definition. A second section of the consultation looks at wider language relating to care. The consultation closes on 31 December.

[STUC withdraws support for National Care Service Bill](#)

The Scottish Trades Union Congress (STUC) has withdrawn its support for the National Care Service (Scotland) Bill, following similar announcements from other trade unions and COSLA. The Bill continues to progress through Parliament and formal Stage 2 proceedings are set to begin in late November.

[Dr Simon Webster appointed as new SCLD Chief Executive](#)

The Scottish Commission for People with Learning Disabilities (SCLD) has appointed Dr Simon Webster as its new Chief Executive. Dr Webster led work on the Review of Learning Disability and Autism in the Mental Health Act (the Rome Review) and was formerly Director of Policy Programmes with the Coalition of Care and Support Providers in Scotland and Research Consultant on Lord Scott's Review of Mental Health Law in Scotland.

[Care Inspectorate publishes Whistleblowing disclosures report 2023-24](#)

The Care Inspectorate has published its annual report on whistleblowing complaints. In 2023/24, we received no internal whistleblowing complaints about the Care Inspectorate from staff or ex-staff. In 2023/24, we received 5,646 complaints about regulated services, of which 24% (1,337) were raised by employees of care



services. Of this group, 1,037 were identified as current employees (18%) and 300 were identified as ex-employees (5%). Overall, this is a reduction of 13% on the rate of complaints raised by care service staff from the previous year. The percentage of all complaints by complainant type received anonymously during 2023/24 has decreased from the year before, with 61% of complaints received in 2023/24 compared to 67% in 2022/23.

[New Audit Scotland chair appointed](#)

Colin Crosby OBE has been appointed as the new chair of the Audit Scotland Board. Mr Crosby, who joined the Board as an independent non-executive director in 2020, has significant leadership experience across the public, private and third sectors and has an OBE for services to social housing.

Disclaimer

This weekly bulletin is produced as an update on key developments concerning adults and health related issues.

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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