




Adult and Health



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Alcohol and Drugs

[Call for evidence on addiction recovery Members' Bill](#)

The Scottish Parliament's Health, Social Care and Sport Committee has published a call for written evidence on the Right to Addiction Recovery (Scotland) Bill, a Members' Bill introduced by Douglas Ross MSP which aims to provide for a right for anyone diagnosed as having a drug and/or alcohol addiction to receive a treatment determination and for the person to be provided with that treatment as soon as reasonably practicable and no later than three weeks from the date of the determination. The closing date is 20 December 2024.

[Audit report on alcohol and drug services](#)

Audit Scotland's publication on alcohol and drug services reportedly shows that the Scottish Government has made progress in increasing residential rehabilitation capacity and implementing treatment standards, but it has been slow to progress key national strategies, such as a workforce plan and alcohol marketing reform.



Alzheimer's/Dementia

[Designing the care home environment for people living with dementia](#)

The Dementia Services Development Centre (DSDC) has published information on how to create practical and comfortable spaces in care homes using dementia design. Recommendations listed by DSDC include dementia inclusive design throughout care homes rather than separate spaces for people living with dementia, creating spaces that are homely and familiar rather than clinical, personalising bedrooms, ensuring a choice of spaces for hobbies and interests as well as daily living activities, and well-trained staff to work in the inclusive space.

Covid-19

[Start date for final impact hearings in Scottish Covid Inquiry](#)

The Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry has announced the final tranche of impact hearings between February and June 2025, exploring impacts of the pandemic which have not yet been covered in the health and social care, education and certification, or business and welfare themes. The Inquiry is adopting a thematic approach to this final tranche of hearings, starting on 18 February with impacts on the justice system and the other themes to be announced in due course.

[10,000th person shares pandemic experience with Let's Be Heard](#)

The Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry has shared that over 10,000 people have participated in the Let's Be Heard public participation project, which has been collecting experiences of the pandemic since May 2023. The Inquiry has highlighted two ongoing surveys for children and young people, and educational staff, which close on 29 November and will mark the close of the project's public engagement activities.

Disabilities

[Interim report on Adult Disability Payment](#)

The Scottish Government has published an interim report of the Independent Review of Adult Disability Payment which highlights emerging findings and initial priorities capable of early action to ensure Adult Disability Payment meets the needs of disabled people. Whilst there are many evident, positive aspects to the current system, the Review has uncovered recurring themes that may be addressed by the implementation of a revised system and they will explore what this might mean in practice, in the second stage of the Review. Priorities recommended for early action include improving communication between Social Security Scotland and clients, and third party representatives, making some small adjustments to the application form, improving the consultation process, improving decision making timescales and ensuring more consistency in decision making, improving the way supporting information is provided, promoting further take up of the benefit and ensuring people know about the support available to assist them in making an application, and ensuring all information is as accessible as it can be.



Equalities

[Vision for anti-racism in social work](#)

A Statement of Intent outlining the vision for anti-racism in social work, including top priorities to address systemic racism in the sector, has been published by the Scottish Government. Developed by the Social Work Anti-racism Action Group, which includes Scottish Government, the Scottish Association of Social Workers and key partners, the Statement is intended to be a resolute step towards dismantling institutional and systemic racism within social work. It will support organisations represented in the Social Work Anti-racism Oversight Group to develop and implement the first national Anti-racism Action Plan for Social Work, which will also be published soon.

Other Health and Social Care

[Annual returns available between January and March 2025](#)

The Care Inspectorate's annual returns will be available to service providers for completion between 6 January and 3 March 2025. The closing date includes an extension of two weeks on our usual six-week deadline.

[Roll out of Carer Support Payment](#)

The Scottish Government has confirmed that the Carer Support Payment will now be available across Scotland. Carer Support Payment, is the replacement in Scotland for Carer's Allowance which is delivered by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), and is for unpaid carers who provide 35 or more hours of care a week to someone who gets disability benefits.

[SSSC snapshot report into care workforce](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council has published its second Register snapshot report on the care workforce, highlighting the data SSSC holds about the registered workforce. The report, which examines data from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024, shows there were 176,781 people on the SSSC Register in March this year, an increase of 5.1% on April 2023. All parts of the Register grew from 2023 to 2024 apart from social work students, which fell for the second year in a row.

Second snapshot report into care workforce

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has published its second Register snapshot report which gives a unique insight into the social work, social care and children and young people workforce.

[Committee publishes recommendations on proposed new National Outcomes](#)

The Health, Social Care and Sport Committee has published a report on their scrutiny of the proposed National Outcomes to consider the strategic themes related to the health and social care outcomes in the National Performance Framework (NPF), including how Scotland is currently performing and the health and wellbeing aspects of the NPF. On the proposed new Care National Outcome, the Committee



notes stakeholder concerns around implementation and how to measure/define progress. The Committee recommends the Scottish Government clarify the scope of 'care' and set out how it will establish a baseline of need to measure progress and take action if progress is not made.

[Terms of reference for Health and Social Care Data Board](#)

The Scottish Government has published the Terms of reference for the Health and Social Care Data Board, which aims to provide leadership and oversight to the creation of the strategy and the subsequent delivery plan associated with the strategy.

[Second phase of review of CQC assessment framework \(England\)](#)

The terms of reference have been published for the second phase of the review of the Care Quality Commission's (CQC) assessment framework and its implementation. The second phase will be led by Professor Sir Mike Richards (MR) with a further targeted programme of engagement with care providers, led by The Care Provider Alliance (CPA), which is chaired by Professor Vic Rayner OBE. Commissioned by the CQC, the work will explore and provide recommendations on the future of CQC regulatory assessment, and will be focused on supporting CQC to improve the experience of assessment for providers, increase the transparency of ratings and ensure that robust guidance for CQC staff is underpinned by what providers and people who use services expect.

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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