

10-16 January 2025



bulletin



Adult and Health



[Alcohol and Drugs](#)

[Equalities](#)

[Mental Health](#)

[Other Health & Social Care](#)

[Workforce](#)

Alcohol and Drugs

[Committee launches inquiry into drug consumption room in Glasgow](#)

The Scottish Affairs Committee has launched an inquiry into the pilot Safer Drugs Consumption Facility in Glasgow. The inquiry will focus on the legal and policy challenges faced in setting up and running the facility and consider what legal changes might be necessary for the facility to continue beyond the three year pilot. The inquiry will also consider the facility's effectiveness in reducing drug-related deaths in Scotland. The Committee is inviting written evidence by 13 February 2025.

[Government sets out its position to Right to Addiction Recovery Bill](#)

The Scottish Government has set out its position to the Right to Addiction Recovery (Scotland) Bill, a members Bill which was introduced by Douglas Ross MSP. The Scottish Government has noted its support for the intended outcomes of the Bill but also notes concerns around the financial implications of the Bill and how the proposals in the Bill will fit in with existing drug and alcohol services.



Equalities

[ALLIANCE report highlights issues around economic, social and cultural rights](#)

The Health and Social Care Alliance (the ALLIANCE) has submitted a report to the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights for its examination of rights in the UK. In the report, the ALLIANCE highlights issues of concern about incorporation, SNAP 2, human rights monitoring, and the impact of budget cuts on disabled people, people with long term conditions, unpaid carers, and the third sector.

[New guidance to help tackle inequalities for people with learning disabilities](#)

The Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) has launched a new best practice guidance to help tackle inequalities for people with learning disabilities and autistic people. The guidance follows on from a report by Public Health England which found that people with learning disabilities were four times more likely to die from Covid-19, with estimates suggesting that the real rate may have been as high as six times more after accounting for unreported deaths. The new guidance brings together learning from discussions with commissioners, service providers, and people with lived experience of learning disabilities and autism.

Mental Health

[Time to Talk Day 2025 will take place on 6 February](#)

The ALLIANCE has highlighted this year's Time to Talk Day will take place on 6 February. This year's theme is 'get comfortable and start talking about mental health'. The ALLIANCE notes that talking can be the first step towards better mental health for everyone, it can reduce stigma and help people feel comfortable to seek help.

[Mental Welfare Commission seeks views from families and carers](#)

The Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland has launched an online questionnaire gathering views from families and carers on their experiences of dealing with services in their carer role. The online questionnaire will close on 3 February 2025.

Other Health and Social Care

[New RCN report highlights experiences of nursing staff providing care in corridors](#)

A report by the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) has highlighted the challenges faced by nursing staff who are delivering care in over-crowded or unsuitable places such as corridors. The report includes experiences from over 5,000 NHS nursing staff and notes that nursing staff have reported caring for up to 40 patients in a single corridor. The findings from the report also reveal that more than 9 in 10 (90.8%) of staff surveyed said that patient safety is being compromised.



[Update on SSSC registration fees](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has published an update on its recent consultation on proposals to increase registration fees. The SSSC is now analysing responses and registrants will be informed if fees are increasing and by how much in March 2025. Any increase is likely to start from 1 April.

[Public Health Scotland has published its four-year Research Strategy](#)

Public Health Scotland (PHS) has published its Research Strategy for 2025-2029. The strategy includes past examples of research impact around Covid-19, alcohol and medical imaging. It also sets PHS's operational and strategic actions for the first year of the strategy, and notes that a cross-organisational action plan will be developed against the strategic objectives.

Workforce

[Scottish Care to host webinar exploring menopause support in care homes](#)

Scottish Care, in collaboration with uniform supplier alsico, is hosting a webinar on menopause support in care homes on 6 February. The webinar will cover:

- Misconceptions about menopause and how to address them
- The importance of uniform considerations in care homes
- Exploring practical menopause policies
- Insights from care home providers implementing menopause-friendly practices

[Digital Health and Care Leadership Programme open for applications](#)

The SSSC has highlighted that the Digital Health and Care Leadership Programme (DLP) is now open for applications to all health and social care settings in Scotland including health, social care, social work, housing, charities and the third sector. The programme is designed for anyone who would like to develop their leadership skills and is interested in digital health and care. The deadline for applications is 3 March 2025.

**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.

It should also be noted that the Care Inspectorate has no liability in respect of the content of external websites which may be signposted in this document.