




Adult and Health



[Alzheimer's/Dementia](#)

[Carers](#)

[Health](#)

[Older People](#)

[Other Health & Social Care](#)

[Other](#)

Alzheimer's/Dementia

[Factsheet on supporting meaningful connection when people are living with dementia](#)

The Meaningful Connection, Visiting and Anne's Law Project has published a factsheet which includes practical ideas and strategies for care staff, family carers, and anyone else involved in caring for someone living with dementia, while recognising that everyone is unique and will experience their dementia journey differently.

[Music and dementia course](#)

The Dementia Services Development Centre (DSDC) has announced a new music and dementia course, which is being created by Christina MacLean, a University of Stirling Master's student, in a placement at DSDC. The programme is designed to explore how music can meaningfully contribute to the lives of people living with dementia. The course will include a range of interactive activities, such as watching thought-provoking videos, reflecting on personal connections to music, and participating in a group activity to explore different models of music therapy, including active, passive and group methods, and discover how music can be used in a variety of settings.



Alzheimer's/Dementia

[Spotting the signs of young-onset dementia](#)

The Alzheimer's Society has published a blog sharing advice on spotting the signs of young-onset dementia and how you can support someone living with the condition. When a person develops dementia before the age of 65, this is known as 'young-onset dementia', and younger people with dementia often have early symptoms that aren't related to memory. They may have problems with behaviour, language, vision or personality, and some people may also have problems with movement, walking, co-ordination or balance. There are many conditions which can cause similar symptoms to dementia, including vitamin deficiencies, thyroid problems, urinary tract infections, and even things like stress, anxiety and lack of sleep, and the blog notes that mentioning these factors may be more helpful than talking only about dementia.

[Draft guidance for public consultation on Alzheimer's treatments](#)

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has published draft guidance for public consultation that continues to not recommend Alzheimer's treatments donanemab and lecanemab, which aims to allow stakeholders to comment on the key new conclusions the independent appraisal committee recently reached. Amongst other issues presented by NICE on their decision, the cost-effectiveness estimates for donanemab and lecanemab remain substantially higher than they can consider an acceptable use of taxpayers' money and NHS resources, and the evidence presented so far shows neither donanemab nor lecanemab provide enough benefit to justify the substantial resources the NHS would need to commit to implement access to them, even with a managed access arrangement. The public consultation closes on 27 March 2025.

Carers

[Online events for carers of people with a mental illness, or learning disability](#)

The Mental Welfare Commission (MWC) are holding a series of online events to hear about the key issues and experiences for people who provide care and support for individuals who have a mental illness, learning disability, autism, dementia or related conditions. The comments and feedback are intended to be included in the MWC carer themed visit report to be published in Summer 2025.

Health

[Refreshed personal footcare guidance](#)

The Scottish Government has published a refresh of the personal footcare guidance, which aims to describe what is meant by personal footcare, and provide clarity on the services and interventions that NHS podiatry services offer, examples of models that can support local provision of personal footcare, and information on the educational resources available which offer help and support both for individuals and care providers in the provision of personal footcare. Amongst others, the guidance is aimed to managers in health, social care, third and independent sectors, who are



involved in planning or providing personal footcare services, managers of care at home services and their staff, and managers of care homes and their staff.

Older People

[National roll-out of frailty units](#)

The Scottish Government has announced that speciality frailty services will be nationally rolled-out, offering access to specialist skills and care plans, accelerate early discharge and look to reduce delays and length of stay. There are currently five frailty units - these have been set up during the Focus on Frailty programme led by Health improvement Scotland across Ayrshire and Arran, Lanarkshire, Tayside, Glasgow and Dumfries and Galloway. There is variation in these services with no standard model, and the services provide a dedicated closed unit or area staffed by frailty / medicine of the elderly staff with frailty assessment within the first hour of arrival at hospital.

Other Health and Social Care

[Annual returns are now closed](#)

This year's annual returns have now closed. We would like to thank everyone who submitted their annual return to us by the deadline, Sunday 2 March 2025. The information you have provided will help us plan, inform and carry out our inspections and improvement work.

[SSSC registration fees to be increased](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has decided to increase the registration fees, with some reductions to the original proposal consulted upon to support the lowest paid parts of the workforce. Provided Scottish Ministers give their approval, the new fee structure will start from 1 April 2025.

[Member reappointed to the Care Inspectorate Board](#)

The Scottish Government's Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport, Maree Todd MSP has announced the reappointment of Edward McGrachan as a Member of the Care Inspectorate Board. This reappointment will be for 2 years and will run from 1 June 2025 to 31 May 2027.

[SSSC director appointments](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has announced the appointments of Laura Lamb as Director of Workforce, Education and Standards and Hannah Coleman as Director of Regulation.

[Analysis of social care data describes the situation as a 'doom loop'](#) (England)

The King's Fund has published 'Social Care 360', analysing social care data and reportedly finding that rising wages, increasing fees, stretched budgets and less



social care available to those who need it, has resulted in a 'doom loop'. Other findings from Social Care 360, which looks at requests for support, usage with age and staff vacancies, includes that requests for support continued to rise in 2023/24, and that new data shows how usage of social care increases with age: around 1.5% of the population is receiving publicly funded social care but this varies, from 0.7% of 18-24 years old to 11.7% of people over 85.

Other

[Care Reform \(Scotland\) Bill](#)

The Scottish Parliament's Health, Social Care and Sport Committee has passed the National Care Service (Scotland) Bill, which has been renamed the Care Reform (Scotland) Bill as a result of amendments. The Committee agreed to remove Part 1 of the Bill, effectively removing any reference to a National Care Service, and also agreed to provisions on the right to breaks for carers, Anne's Law, independent advocacy and information sharing between health and social care services. The Bill will be further amended and considered at Stage 3, with a date for proceedings to be confirmed.

[Confusion over child benefit payments](#)

Child Poverty Action Group in Scotland has published a report on children's benefits and maximising take-up. The briefing explores how families are missing out on benefits they are entitled to because of confusion about eligibility and draws attention to myths and misunderstandings concerning the Scottish child payment that many families are raising with advisers.

[Community health and social care finances](#)

Audit Scotland has published 'Integration Joint Boards' Finance Bulletin 2023/24', analysing IJB annual accounts for 2023/24 and the annual audit reports produced by local auditors. The report warns that community health and social care finances are "increasingly precarious", and that IJBs cannot manage future financial pressures in isolation they must work with their partners in the NHS and councils to reform how they deliver services to achieve financial sustainability. Reportedly, IJB funding has increased in the past year, but there is ongoing overspending, running down of reserves and reliance on one-off savings, and they must be transparent with communities about what this means for services, and collaborate to plan for the major reforms required.



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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