




# Adult and Health



[Alcohol and Drugs](#)

[Alzheimer's/Dementia](#)

[Disabilities](#)

[Justice](#)

[Older People](#)

[Other Health & Social Care](#)

[Other](#)

## Alcohol and Drugs

### [Monitoring report on progress made to reduce drug deaths](#)

The Scottish Government has published 'National Mission on Drugs: Annual Monitoring Report 2023-2024', the second annual monitoring report which provides an analysis of the progress made between April 2023 and March 2024 on the National Mission to reduce drug deaths and improve lives. The report examines the six outcomes from the National Mission on Drug Deaths Plan 2022-2026 and progress made against each one. Each outcome chapter includes a summary of the metrics for a given outcome, followed by an introduction outlining relevant background information and policy context, and time-series data on each metric are then presented alongside commentary on any additional data or statistics that provide a wider picture and context.



## **Alzheimer's/Dementia**

### [Exploring technology to help the independence of people living with dementia](#)

Age Scotland have confirmed that they are a partner in a research network, 'CONSOLIDATE', led by Heriot-Watt University, the University of Strathclyde and Age Scotland, also including Alzheimer Scotland, Meeting Centres Scotland, Carers Scotland, The Community Renewal Trust and NHS Boards, which aims to explore how technology can help people living with dementia to remain independent for longer. The CONSOLIDATE network is funded by UKRI's Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) and the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR), in collaboration with the Alzheimer's Society, and aims to develop innovative technologies that will enhance the social, mental, and physical capacities of people living with dementia, helping them maintain independence and improve their quality of life.

### [Television season features programmes on dementia](#)

The Alzheimer's Society has worked with the BBC part of the 'Memories and Dementia: Starting the Conversation' season which runs from 24 to 28 March and will feature a range of programmes on the topic of dementia, is designed to focus on the BBC content archive, and the specially curated collections aim to help people living with dementia by triggering memories and starting conversations.

## **Disabilities**

### [Pilot scheme offers free rail travel for companions of blind or partially sighted people](#)

Transport Scotland has announced a pilot scheme that will provide free rail travel for companions of blind and partially sighted people on all ScotRail train journeys across Scotland, starting 01 April 2025. Under this new pilot scheme, which will run for a year, individuals holding an eye +1 National Entitlement Card (NEC) will be able to travel with a companion at no additional cost.

## **Justice**

### [Statistics on deaths in prison custody](#)

The Scottish Government has published 'Deaths in Prison Custody 2012-13 to 2022-23', providing an overview of high-level trends in deaths in prison custody over the period. For the first time, this report links the data published by the Scottish Prison Service (SPS) with the official records held by the National Records of Scotland (NRS) to examine cause of death in prison custody and compare deaths in prison custody with deaths occurring in the general Scottish population. Amongst other findings, from 2012-13 to 2022-23, there were 345 deaths occurring in prison custody, with a general upwards trend in the overall number of deaths in prison custody.



## Older People

### [Scottish benefit for pensioners opens to new areas](#)

The Scottish Government has announced that the Pension Age Disability Payment will open to new areas ahead of a national rollout. Pension Age Disability Payment has been extended to Aberdeenshire, Angus, Clackmannanshire, Dundee City, Falkirk, Fife, Moray, Na h-Eileanan Siar (Western Isles), Perth and Kinross and Stirling, and is also now available in all three Ayrshire local authority areas - East Ayrshire, North Ayrshire and South Ayrshire. Pension Age Disability Payment is for disabled people or those with a long-term health condition that means they need help looking after themselves or supervision to stay safe, is available to people of State Pension age and is also available to pensioners who are terminally ill.

### [RSV vaccination programme reduces older people being admitted to hospital](#) (England)

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has published a research letter in the Lancet containing early data from the roll out of the respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccination programme in England which reportedly shows it is making a significant reduction to hospital admission rates in older people. The findings indicate 30% fewer hospital admissions in 75 to 79 year olds, who are eligible for the vaccine under the new programme, than would have occurred without vaccination.

## Other Health and Social Care

### [Monthly summary of safety advice for all medicines, medical devices and products](#)

The UK Government's Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has published the first in a monthly summary of the latest safety advice for all medicines, medical devices, and healthcare products regulated by the MHRA, which aims to make medicines and medical device information clearer and more accessible for healthcare professionals. The bulletin, which will be sent to subscribers and published online at the end of each month, provides a summary of all the MHRA safety alerts for the past month including drug safety updates (DSU), device safety information (DSI), national patient safety alerts, recalls and medicines notifications, and letters sent to healthcare professional, as well as an MHRA news section highlighting key safety information about medicines, medical devices and healthcare products that may be of interest to readers.

### [Review of CQC technology](#) (England)

A report by the independent review of Care Quality Commission (CQC) technology has been published. The review considered how and why they got to the point where the technology is causing such significant organisational disruption, and it also explored whether they could continue with the technology as it is. The report sets out the problems that resulted in the failure of their technology and concludes that the primary cause has been a failed organisational transformation. There are 23 recommendations to rebuild CQC and redevelop the regulatory platform and the provider portal.



## Other

### [Launch of social work student placement resource](#)

Iriss will hold an event on 29 April to launch its new resource on social work student placements in third sector organisations. An online session will also be held on 30 April for those who cannot attend the in-person event in Glasgow the previous day.

### [Summary of CSWO annual reports](#)

Iriss has published its annual summary of the Chief Social Work Officer (CSWO) annual reports for 2023-2024. The report provides a summary of the main areas and themes covered in the CSWO Annual Reports, giving a general overview of the social work landscape in Scotland. The most common theme mentioned across the CSWO reports is the uncertainty of available funding and the impact on social work and social care.

### [Consultation shows support for charity regulation review](#)

The Scottish Government has published a consultation analysis report on the recent proposal for a review of charity regulation. The analysis shows 83 per cent of respondents agreed there should be a review, with just over half of respondents stating their preference for a review to focus on assessing the sector's future needs and ensuring regulation is fit for purpose. Agreement was recorded for reviewing charity trustee duties, public benefit and charitable purposes as part of any review. Other topics highlighted included safeguarding and disclosures for staff and volunteers, accountability structures for staff, discrimination against staff, and employee benefits. Some others also mentioned the need for strengthened regulation.



## 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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