




Adult and Health



[Alzheimer's/Dementia](#)

[Care Homes/Care at Home](#)

[Disabilities](#)

[Housing Support](#)

[Justice](#)

[Older People](#)

[Workforce](#)

[Other Health & Social Care](#)

Alzheimer's/Dementia

[Relaunch of best practice in dementia care webinar](#)

The Dementia Services Development Centre (DSDC) has relaunched the Best Practice in Dementia Care programme.

Care Homes/Care at Home

[Scottish Care Homes Census](#)

The Scottish Government has published information on the Scottish Care Home Census, which is completed through the Care Inspectorate eForms system. The Census provides key financial information and resident level data for all funding types which informs a range of considerations such as capital limits for residential care, free personal and nursing care allowances and enables an understanding of the costs and benefits of associated policy development. The 2025 Care Home Census will open on 14 April 2025 and close 7 weeks later at midnight on 1 June 2025. This data will cover the year April 2024 to March 2025 (2024/25) only.



Care Homes/Care at Home

[Report on the Highlands care home sector](#)

Angus MacDonald, the Liberal Democrat MP for Inverness, Skye and Wester Ross, has commissioned research into the Highlands care home sector. The Highland Care Home Report analyses survey responses and identifies the main challenges facing the sector in the Highlands, including finance, workforce, capacity and delayed discharges. The report includes a section on regulation in the care sector which notes that the majority of respondents to the survey agreed that the Care Inspectorate supported the delivery of high-quality, consistent care but that some respondents spoke of frustrations with balancing service provision and regulation.

Disabilities

[Considering the impact of the British Sign Language Act](#)

The Scottish Parliament's Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee will be considering the impact of the British Sign Language (Scotland) Act 2015. The Committee is interesting in gathering views on if the changes brought in by the Act have improved the lives of BSL users. This call for views closes at 11.59pm on 2 May 2025.

Housing Support

[Models of Housing Support and Supported Housing](#)

The Housing Support Enabling Unit, a partnership initiative between Coalition of Care and Support Providers Scotland (CCPS) and Scottish Federation of Housing Associations (SFHA), funded by the Scottish Government, has published an updated paper outlining the models of housing support and supported housing in Scotland. The paper outlines diverse models of housing support and supported housing, which should aim to enable people to live at home as independently as possible by maintaining and developing their life skills and social networks.

Justice

[Statement on deaths in custody Fatal Accident Inquiries](#)

The Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs Angela Constance gave a Ministerial Statement to the Scottish Parliament on Response to Fatal Accident Inquiries (Deaths in Custody), giving an update on progress and actions taken in relation to the recommendations set out by Sheriff Collins in his Fatal Accident Inquiry (FAI) determination. Amongst other updates, the Cabinet Secretary confirmed that family members involved in deaths in custody Fatal Accident Inquiries (FAIs) to have immediate, free access to legal aid support and advice, the Scottish Prison Service SPS Suicide Prevention Strategy 'Talk to Me' will be overhauled, and the Scottish Government is leading work on information sharing to ensure the consistent transfer of relevant information between courts and the Prison Service.



Older People

[Introduction of Commissioner for Older People Bill](#)

Colin Smyth MSP has introduced the Commissioner for Older People (Scotland) Bill as a Member's Bill to establish a Commissioner for Older People to promote and safeguard the rights and interests of older people in Scotland. The Commissioner will have various roles, including promoting awareness and understanding of the rights and interests of older people, reviewing law, policy and practice relating to the rights and interests of older people, and undertaking research on matters relating to older people. The Commissioner will also have the power to investigate decisions and actions taken by those who provide services to older people.

Workforce

[Development of social work graduate apprenticeship](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) is working with the Scottish Government and Skills Development Scotland to create a graduate apprenticeship route to becoming a social worker. The graduate apprenticeship will combine work-based training and academic learning to gain a social work degree, with the same requirements to achieve the graduate apprenticeship degree the same as the requirements for students studying through current routes but delivered in a different way. It creates an additional pathway for those wishing to enter the social work profession who are unable to access study through the current routes.

[Provision of workforce qualifications and demand](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has published the 'Workforce Skills Report 2025', which analyses the current training provision within the social work, social care and children and young people sector and evaluates how well it meets the demand for qualifications arising from SSSC registration. The report also offers insights into the projected demand for qualifications over the next five years and compares this with current levels of provision. Amongst other findings, the report shows that the demand for SVQ Social Services and Healthcare SCQF level 6 is projected to total 30,957 over the financial years ending 2026 to 2030. This is greater than the current estimated supply of 19,926, however the HNC Social Services is an alternative benchmark award for adult social care support workers, with an estimated 5,000 HNC Social Services starts over the five-year period, potentially bridging some of the gap.

[Survey of registrants](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has published the results of their annual registrant survey with the views of people who work in social work, social care and children and young people services, and are registered with the SSSC, on the registration process, benefits of registration, their communications and their customer service.

Other Health and Social Care



[Literature review on barriers to accessing primary care](#)

The Scottish Government has published ‘Socioeconomic inequality and barriers to primary care in Scotland: A literature review’, presenting a literature review on the barriers to primary care faced by those most affected by socioeconomic inequality in Scotland. The report has identified several tangible barriers to engaging with primary care, which can relate to the messages conveyed by services, the systems in place for accessing appointments, as well as primary care settings and spaces. This report is a contribution to ongoing programmes of work around health inequalities, and this work will reportedly be brought together in the forthcoming ‘Population Health Framework’ which aims to set out actions to support four core priorities of the Scottish Government: eradicating child poverty, growing the economy, tackling the climate emergency, and improving Scotland’s public services.

[Information on health and social care reform initiatives](#)

A factsheet has been published by the Scottish Government with information on health and social care reform initiatives. The fact sheet sets out the population health challenges Scotland faces now and in the future, announcements by the Scottish Government on health reforms, and lists the products to be published that will set out detailed actions, such as an operational improvement plan, population health framework, and medium-term approach to health and social care reform.

[Charter for safe havens to access and process personal health and social care data](#)

The Scottish Government has published ‘A Charter for Safe Havens in Scotland: Principles and Standards for the Scottish Safe Haven Network to Support the Use of Data to Enable Research and Innovation in Scotland’, setting out the operational framework for secure facilities that provide a controlled environment for accessing and processing personal health and social care data. The Charter also describes the Safe Havens’ collaborative approach to support and advance health informatics research, clinical research, clinical trials, innovation and public health research.

[NHS Scotland operational improvement plan](#)

The Scottish Government has published ‘NHS Scotland Operational Improvement Plan’, setting out actions to improve specific aspects of NHS Scotland delivery, building on NHS boards’ own delivery planning for 2025 to 2026. The plan brings focus to four critical areas that the Government is committed to delivering, namely improving access to treatment, shifting the balance of care, improving access to health and social care services through digital and technological innovation, and prevention – ensuring they work with people to prevent illness and more proactively meet their needs.

[Appointment of CQC Chair \(England\)](#)

The UK Government’s Department of Health and Social Care has appointed Professor Mike Richards as the next chair of the Care Quality Commission. The appointment is for four years from 1 April 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.

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