


Adult and
Health[Disabilities](#)[Equalities](#)[Justice](#)[Mental Health](#)[Older People](#)[Other Health & Social Care](#)**Disabilities**[Development of supported decision making](#)

A report examining the legal context and cultural and practice issues impacting the development of supported decision making in Scotland has been published by the Scottish Commission for People with Learning Disabilities (SCLD). The report highlights that people with learning disabilities report feeling more independent and empowered when they have greater choice and control and support to make decisions, and that many people with learning disabilities have decisions made for them based on their perceived 'best interests' and the development of their decision-making skills may be overlooked. Amongst other points, the report concludes that the effective implementation of SDM in Scotland may require changes not only to law and practice but also to how we view and value people with learning disabilities as a society, and that delivering these changes for Scotland will require strong leadership as well as significant and sustained resourcing at a national and local level.



Disabilities

[Funding for organisations supporting autistic adults](#)

The Scottish Government has announced an 'Autistic Adult Support Fund' for third sector organisations providing services to autistic adults – promoting wellbeing and helping them to understand what neurodivergence means for them.

Equalities

[Right to healthcare for people with no recourse to public funds](#)

Public Health Scotland has published an overview briefing of the immigration condition 'No recourse to public funds (NRPF)' and the impact it can have on people's health and how they access health services, and the briefing also suggests some actions services can take to help improve the health outcomes of people subject to NRPF and reduce the inequalities they experience.

Justice

[Inspection of Barlinnie prison](#)

HM Inspectorate of Prisons for Scotland (HMIPS) has published a report of their full inspection of HMP Barlinnie. Amongst other findings, the report concludes that the need for a replacement prison through the planned new HMP Glasgow remains overwhelming and urgent, and there is an unacceptable level of overcrowding. There are positive aspects such as the refurbishment of the health centre and therapeutic work in the Wellbeing Hub for vulnerable prisoners. However, progression and waiting lists for rehabilitation programmes remain a problem in Barlinnie, with 200 prisoners awaiting an assessment of what programmes they might need to complete, and also lengthy waiting lists for addiction and alcohol recovery services.

Mental Health

[Survey of people accessing mental health services \(England\)](#)

The results of a survey of people who accessed community mental health services has been published by the Care Quality Commission (CQC). The Community mental health survey 2024 gained feedback from people who received treatment for a mental health condition between 1 April and 31 May 2024, and the results reportedly show that whilst people are continuing to have poor experiences of NHS community mental health services, there are some positive results for support accessing care and information about some aspects of their medication. Key areas for improvement identified by the CQC include quality of care, crisis care, support while waiting, planning and involvement in care, and support with other areas of life. Respondents reporting worse than average experiences across multiple questions included younger people (aged 16-35), disabled people and autistic people, as well as people who access services over the telephone. Areas of care for which these groups reported worse experiences included being treated with care and compassion,



feeling listened to, being given the help they needed from services and being supported to make decisions about their care and treatment.

Older People

[Ageism and how it can affect how well we age](#)

As part of Age Scotland's Research Café series, they have examined the topic of ageism and how it can affect how well we age. Reportedly research shows that having self-limiting beliefs, such as, 'I can't do that because I'm older', or 'I am too old for that', can become a damaging self-fulfilling prophecy, and that intergenerational relationships can help share knowledge and break down barriers and assumptions that might exist between generations.

Other Health and Social Care

[Revised guidance on duty of candour](#)

The Scottish Government has published revised guidance focusing on the implementation of the legal duty of candour procedure for health, care, and social work services. This guidance replaces the 2018 organisational duty of candour guidance, and it has been updated based on reviews of published annual reports, learning identified from the COVID-19 pandemic and other scenarios such as healthcare-associated infections (HAI) and incidents involving multiple people, and extensive engagement and feedback from across the health, care and social work sectors.

[Draft guideline on rehabilitation for people with long-term neurological conditions](#) (England)

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has published a draft guideline recommending a standardised approach to rehabilitation across five major neurological conditions, including brain and spinal cord injuries. The draft guideline aims to address variation in care provided in hospital and community settings by recommending healthcare professionals take a multidisciplinary approach to rehabilitation for chronic neurological disorders, including acquired brain injury, based on a holistic assessment of each person's needs, and could involve physical, occupational, speech, and cognitive therapies, as well as psychological support and vocational counselling.

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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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