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and
Health

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Alcohol and Drugs

[Call for urgent action to reduce alcohol deaths](#)

The Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (the ALLIANCE) has signed, along with 72 other stakeholders, a call for urgent action to the Scottish Government to reduce alcohol deaths with targeted measures to address the high number of unnecessary deaths from alcohol. Other key points in the letter include calling for action to increase early diagnosis for liver disease, establish Alcohol Care Teams (ACTs) in acute hospitals, improve access to alcohol detoxification services, and increase funding for tackling alcohol harm.



Covid-19

[Update on 'Impact on society' roundtables for UK Covid-19 Inquiry](#)

The UK Covid-19 Inquiry continues with its series of roundtable sessions as part of its tenth and final investigation, Module 10 'Impact on Society', with five themed roundtable sessions remaining for participants to bring personal and professional insights and expertise to open and collaborative discussions. Each roundtable will result in a summary report to be provided to the Chair, Baroness Hallett, before publication on the Inquiry website, which, along with other evidence collected, will help inform the Chair's findings and recommendations.

End of Life/Palliative Care

[No Committee recommendation on Assisted Dying Bill](#)

The Scottish Parliament's Health, Social Care and Sport Committee has decided to make no overall recommendation on the general principles of the Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill at Stage 1, and say the vote is a matter of conscience for each individual MSP. 'Important factors' listed by the Committee that should be considered by MSPs, before voting at Stage 1, include the extent to which the Bill strikes an appropriate balance between providing a right for terminally ill adults to access assisted dying and the requirement to protect vulnerable groups; and the likelihood that the Bill may be subject to a human rights based legal challenge that could result in eligibility for assisted dying being extended over time.

Equalities

[Our new Equalities Mainstreaming report has now been published](#)

Our new Equalities Mainstreaming report has now been published. It shows:

- our progress against our equality outcomes from April 2021 to March 2025 as first published in our Equality Outcomes, Mainstreaming Report, and Action Plan in April 2021
- new equality outcomes for 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2029
- workforce equality information including our pay gap information (appendix 2)
- equal pay statement

Justice

[Research on deaths in custody](#)

The Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research (SCCJR) has published 'Nothing to See Here? Deaths in Custody and their Investigation in Scotland in 2024', with research into the number of people who had died while in prison, in police custody, a mental health facility, immigration detention centre and in care settings for looked after children and young people. Reportedly, in total 244 people have died in Scotland while detained in custody or under the control of the state in 2024, and there has been a rise in deaths in prison which are now among the highest in Europe.



Older People

[Updated guideline on assessing risk of falling for older people](#)

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has published an updated guideline on assessing risk of falling and interventions to prevent falls in all people aged 65 and over, and people aged 50 to 64 who are at higher risk of falls. As well as making recommendations on hazards in a person's home, the updated guidance published today also covers residential care homes, hospitals and other healthcare settings in the community. The guideline recommends offering a comprehensive falls assessment and management for people who have fallen in the past year and are living with frailty, were injured in a fall, experienced loss of consciousness related to the fall, have been unable to get up independently after a fall, or have had two or more falls. The guideline continues to recommend evidence-based falls prevention exercise in community settings. However, a notable update includes the recommendation to improve access to exercise for older and at-risk groups who do not need a comprehensive assessment.

Workforce

[Survey on leavers from social care and social work](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) 'Register Leavers Survey Report' gives an insight into leavers from the social work, social care and children and young people workforce, examining who is leaving the SSSC Register, why and where they are moving to. The survey reportedly shows that of the 2003 people who left the Register between August and December 2024, retirement, health and poor terms and conditions are the top reasons given for people leaving the Register.

[Resource for social care career information](#)

NHS Education for Scotland (NES) and the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) have launched a new Social Care Career Options Tool that will make it easier for people to find out about the wide range of roles and careers available in social care. The tool reportedly provides role descriptions and real-life career stories, as well as information on qualifications and career paths.

Other Health and Social Care

[Social Care Impact Awards recognising contributions](#)

The Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) has launched 'Social Care Impact Awards', to identify, recognise, and reward small organisations doing exceptional work in social care. The prizes include seventeen days of SCIE consultancy and training support to spaces on SCIE training courses, and the deadline for entries is 9am, Wednesday 28 May 2025.



[Paper on social care reform](#)

Membership organisations, namely CCPS, the Coalition of Carers, Glasgow Disability Alliance, the Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland, Inclusion Scotland and Scottish Care, have jointly published a paper on social care reform. The paper, 'The National Care Service: Where Now?' makes recommendations for the Scottish Government's proposals for a non-statutory advisory board, and identifies four areas for future reform, including clarifying the purpose of a National Care Service, oversight and accountability at a national level, a robust framework for the commissioning and procurement of social care support, and transparency of funding and investment.

[Terms of reference for advisory group on extension of Freedom of Information](#)

The Scottish Government has published the Terms of Reference for the proposed Freedom of Information extension Consultation Advisory Group. The Scottish Government has committed to consult on the extension of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA) to private and third sector operated care homes and 'care at home' services, and the advisory group will input into the development of the Scottish Government's approach to consultation on extension of FOISA to private and third sector providers of care home and 'care at home' services, in order to ensure the approach to consultation is robust.

[Progress on health and social care integration over ten years](#)

The ALLIANCE Integration Support programme has published a report reflecting on the process of health and social care integration from 2014 to 2024, examining the challenges and barriers, and the priority areas for improvement. The report concludes with a vision for the future of integrated health and social care that promotes, protects and upholds everyone's right to live well with dignity and respect, underpinned by the Health and Social Care Academy's Five Ambitions for the Future of Health and Care.

**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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