

30 May – 5 June 2025



bulletin



Adult and Health

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Alcohol and Drugs

[Toolkit for pursuing careers in drug and alcohol sector](#)

The Scottish Government has published 'Pathways to Employment: Your guide to a career in substance use services', bringing a range of information and support together into one resource for people with lived and living experience of substance use looking to pursue careers in the drug and alcohol sector. Also published are '[Pathways to Employment: Supporting people with lived and living experience of substance use in to work](#)' and '[Substance use - supporting employees with lived and living experience: guiding principles](#)', for employers to recruit and support staff with lived and living experience of substance use.



Alzheimer's/Dementia

[Report on national dementia event](#)

Age Scotland has reported on its national dementia event bringing together people living with dementia, unpaid carers, community organisations and professionals to “help shape the future of support across Scotland.” The event introduced Age Scotland’s refreshed dementia team and branding, and reinforced the charity’s commitment to placing lived experience at the heart of all its work. Reportedly, the event also highlighted the importance of reaching underrepresented groups and ensuring dementia support is accessible and inclusive, regardless of geography, background or identity.

Equalities

[Annual report of the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee](#)

The Scottish Parliament’s Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee has published its annual report, covering its work during the Parliamentary year. Amongst other pieces of work, the Committee scrutinised the Disability Commissioner (Scotland) Bill, and undertook inquiries into suicide prevention, the Human Rights Bill, Learning Disabilities, Autism and Neurodivergence Bill, and operation of the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Justice

[Update on key recommendations of the Independent Review of the Response to Deaths in Prison Custody](#)

The Scottish Government’s Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs has written to the Convenor of the Criminal Justice Committee updating on key recommendations of the Independent Review of the Response to Deaths in Prison Custody. Amongst other updates, the Scottish Government is progressing the establishment of a National Oversight Mechanism (NOM), to support better system wide understanding, learning and action – for example, identifying and highlighting important thematic issues, as well as exploring evidence and trends, in order to inform and support improvement and prevention. [Another letter](#) has also been sent on Fatal Accident Inquiries into the deaths in custody of Jack McKenzie, Katie Allan and William Lindsay (Brown), and an update on the establishment of a Ministerial Accountability Board.

[Appointment of the Chair of the Review of Fatal Accident Inquiries](#)

The Scottish Government’s Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs has written to the Convenor of the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee confirming the appointment of Retired Sheriff Principal Ian Abercrombie as the Chair of the Review of Fatal Accident Inquiries Relating to Deaths in Custody. The purpose of this independent Review is to consider the Fatal Accident Inquiry system and make detailed and actionable recommendations which focus on improving the efficiency, effectiveness and trauma-informed nature of investigations into deaths in



prison custody. The Review will also identify the specific barriers that families face in engaging with the process and the timescales involved, identifying any improvements that can be made on both fronts.

Older People

[Estimates of prevalence of unmet need for care, support and help for older people](#)

The Scottish Government has published 'Health and Care Experience Survey 2023/24: Analysis of reported unmet care needs among people aged 65+', presenting estimates of the prevalence of unmet need for care, support and help with everyday living amongst those aged 65+ and how this varies according to demographic, socioeconomic and health-related factors, using data from the 2023-24 HACE survey. Key findings include that disabled older adults were more likely to report having unmet support needs (17%) than those without a disability (2%), and whilst 22% of older adults (65+) in Scotland reported that they needed or received support over the past 12 months, 9% of older adults reported unmet support needs, and 43% of those who said that they needed or received support reported unmet support needs.

Other Health and Social Care

[Annual report of the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee](#)

The Scottish Parliament's Health, Social Care and Sport Committee has published its annual report for 2024-25. Amongst other work, the Health Committee scrutinised the Care Reform (Scotland) Bill and Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill, and undertook inquiries into the Proposed National Outcomes of the National Performance Framework, and post-legislative scrutiny of the Social Care (Self-directed Support)(Scotland) Act 2013.

[Review of qualification and modern apprenticeship frameworks](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) will be reviewing the qualification and modern apprenticeship frameworks, working with Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA), SQA Accreditation and Skills Development Scotland to review the qualifications framework to ensure that benchmark SVQs accepted for registration with the SSSC are fit for purpose and reflect current and future practice, and reviewing the Modern Apprenticeship frameworks to ensure that these also reflect current and future practice. SSSC plan to set up a Qualification Design Team and also smaller groups covering apprenticeships, which will be involved in feedback and suggestions during the review process and help to redesign the frameworks. There will also be a formal consultation early in January 2026 about the reviewed qualifications and apprenticeships.



[Social Work Scotland Annual Conference – 9 October 2025](#)

The Social Work Scotland Annual Conference and Exhibition will take place on 9 October in Glasgow. The theme of this year's event is "Relationships as Catalysts for Change" and workshops will focus on relationships in the age of AI, restorative justice for systemic change and community-oriented practice.

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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