

6 – 12 June 2025



bulletin



# Adult and Health

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## Alzheimer's/Dementia

### [Dementia guide for unpaid carers](#)

Age Scotland has launched a dementia information guide for unpaid carers, developed with members of the Dementia Lived Experience Forum and the Unpaid Carers Working Group and designed to help unpaid carers understand their legal rights and access key support.

### [Updated Best Practice in Dementia Care Programme](#)

The Dementia Services Development Centre (DSDC) has reviewed and updated their Best Practice In Dementia Care Programme, informed by lived experience, research and policy. The Programme aims to improve the quality of life of people living with a dementia, by adopting a person-led approach to care practice.



## Care Homes/Care at Home

### [Care home improvement programme \(CHIP\) cohort 2](#)

Building on the success of the first cohort in Greater Glasgow and Clyde and Forth Valley, in April 2024, the Care Inspectorate launched the second cohort of the Care Home Improvement Programme (CHIP) in Tayside and Fife, running from October 2024 to March 2025, and plans are underway for the delivery of Cohort 3 later in 2025. Cohort 2 focused on the Tayside and Fife regions to allow care homes to foster local connections and peer support networks within their local area.

## Disability

### [Training in deafblindness duties and compliance \(England\)](#)

The Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) and Hi-Vis UK have launched a level 5 diploma in deafblindness, duties and compliance for senior leaders and practitioners.

## Justice

### [Long-time drivers of and changes in the prison population](#)

The Scottish Government has published a paper exploring long-term changes that have taken place which have altered the size and composition of the prison population, with changes both before and following the Covid-19 pandemic. Key points include that the prison population has been growing in recent years with the increased pressure presenting challenges such as more prisoners with the most serious index offences, a higher proportion of older prisoners, and fewer entries and exits, with more people serving longer sentences. Other issues include that drugs and other demographic challenges are important factors in relation to the prison population and operation of the prison estate, and there is now an increased remand population, though this may be a shorter-term Covid-19 pandemic-related impact.

### [Main findings of Scottish crime and justice survey](#)

The Scottish Government has published the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey 2023/24, which allows people to independently report their experiences and perceptions of crime, and also provides a range of additional information, including details on the characteristics of victims and offenders of crime and captures adults' perceptions of policing and the justice system. The survey reportedly shows that around one-in-five adults (19.9%) were a victim of at least one crime covered by the headline survey, and that most people continue to feel safe in their local communities, most measures of confidence in the police and justice system show a decline in recent years, although many remain positive overall and most are similar to the position in 2008/09.



## **Mental Health**

### [Progress update on mental health and wellbeing strategy delivery and action plans](#)

The Scottish Government has published 'Mental health and wellbeing strategy - delivery plan and workforce action plan: progress update and next steps', laying out the successes and challenges, and plans for a refresh of the delivery and action plans. A Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy Leadership Board, co-chaired by the Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport and the COSLA Health and Social Care Spokesperson has been established, bringing together key stakeholders across the public and voluntary sector, together with lived experience. Whilst the publication lists examples of tangible changes, measuring the impact of specific actions on the mental health and wellbeing of the people of Scotland is challenging, particularly in the short term and the Scottish Government are working with Public Health Scotland to support better understanding of the cumulative impact of the Strategy and its actions.

## **Other Health and Social Care**

### [Evidence to Health Committee from Care Inspectorate](#)

The Care Inspectorate's Jackie Irvine, Chief Executive, Edith Macintosh, Executive Director of Assurance and Improvement (Adults, Registration, Complaints and Quality Improvement), and Kevin Mitchell, Executive Director of Assurance and Improvement (Children's Regulated Care and Strategic Scrutiny) gave evidence to the Scottish Parliament's Health, Social Care and Sport Committee. This was part of the Committee's routine scrutiny of bodies that sit within the remit of the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care, and as such, the meeting covered a broad array of topics on our role and activity.

### [Progress update on IRISR recommendations](#)

The Scottish Government has published a 2025 Progress Update on the Independent Review of Inspection, Scrutiny and Regulation of Social Care in Scotland (IRISR). The report outlines Recommendation 15 and 33 have progressed and are being led by a cross-sector Steering Group, co-chaired by the government, the Care Inspectorate and the Scottish Social Services Council. It highlights key workstreams relevant to the IRISR recommendations, including the 'Team Around the Person' toolkit; the Joint Inspection of Children's Services, led by Healthcare Improvement Scotland and the Care Inspectorate; review of the Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland Regulations; and the setting up of a National Information Governance Programme to support the effective and proper use of information.

### [Care Reform \(Scotland\) Bill passed](#)

The Scottish Parliament this week passed the Care Reform (Scotland) Bill after Stage 3 proceedings. The Bill – formally titled the National Care Service (Scotland) Bill – includes provisions to enshrine Anne's Law in legislation, establish a National



Social Work Agency and National Chief Social Work Adviser, ensure breaks for unpaid carers and improve access to independent advocacy services.

### [Applications for the Digital Health and Care Leadership Programme open](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) is publicising that applications for cohort 27 of the Digital Health and Care Leadership Programme (DLP) are open to all health and social care settings in Scotland including health, social care, social work, housing, charities and the third sector. The programme is designed for anyone who would like to develop their leadership skills and is interested in digital health and care. It includes a series of interactive learning sessions and peer support groups to allow participants to progress a digital project within their organisation.

### [Guide for social workers using OpenAI](#)

Social Work Scotland has published a guide to working with OpenAI in partnership with the University of Strathclyde. The guide for social workers introduces the responsible use of OpenAI in the profession and provides insight into what the technology can and can't do, including guidance on ethical and responsible use.

### [New campaign to improve social workers' working conditions](#)

The British Association of Social Workers and Social Workers Union have launched a campaign to tackle poor working conditions in the sector. As part of the campaign they have launched a new, evidence-based wellbeing toolkit for social workers which provides resources and ideas to use in workplaces to improve wellbeing.

## **Other**

### [Scottish Government Ministerial team reshuffled](#)

First Minister John Swinney has announced a minor reshuffle of his cabinet team following the return of Màiri McAllan from maternity leave. The changes include a shift in responsibility for social care, with Tom Arthur as the new Minister for Social Care and Wellbeing, with former incumbent Maree Todd given responsibility for Drugs and Alcohol Policy. Mr Arthur has been the MSP for Renfrewshire South since 2016 and previously held the post of Minister for Employment and Investment.

**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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