

13 – 19 June 2025



bulletin



# Adult and Health

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## Alcohol and Drugs

### [Benchmarking report on progress on MAT standards](#)

Public Health Scotland (PHS) has published a benchmarking report on the progress Alcohol and Drug Partnerships (ADP) in Scotland have made to meet the Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) standards in 2024/25. Amongst other key findings of continued progress in implementation and embedding of MAT standards, in 2024/25, for MAT standards 1–5, 91% have been assessed as fully implemented (RAGB blue or green), and for MAT standards 6–10, 75% were assessed as RAGB green, 16% provisional green.



## **Alzheimer's/Dementia**

### [Evaluation of Brain Health Service demonstrator site](#)

The Scottish Government has published the findings from Blake Stevenson's independent evaluation of the Brain Health Service demonstrator site in Aberdeen, delivered collaboratively by NHS Grampian, Alzheimer Scotland, and the Scottish Government. Assessing the context, delivery, outcomes, sustainability, and potential scalability of an innovative brain health model, the evaluation reports that the Brain Health Service is "widely perceived by users as positive, person-centred, and reassuring" and there is "strong evidence of self-reported behaviour change among users following their engagement with the service." The evaluation identifies eight key recommendations, including assessment and enhancement of local awareness to ensure equitable service access, especially targeting underrepresented groups, and collaboration between local and national policymakers to produce evidence of the cost savings of proactive dementia prevention.

## **Justice**

### [Update of evidence on reducing reoffending](#)

The Scottish Government has published 'What Works to Reduce Reoffending: update of the evidence on imprisonment and community disposals', providing an update of evidence on specific topics including imprisonment, community disposals, suspended sentences and early release schemes and their different impacts on rates of reoffending. The publication also explores the evidence that compares the effectiveness of imprisonment with that of community sentences. Amongst other key findings, the publication reports that broadly the findings of the 2025 paper accord with the relevant conclusions of the previous 2015 review, suggests that generic or one-size-fits-all interventions are less effective at reducing reoffending than those interventions that target the individual needs of specific cohorts, and overall the evidence indicates that community sentences are more effective in reducing reoffending than short-term prison sentences (up to 12 months) and may provide greater opportunity for rehabilitation (but this is dependent on the offender's ability to access rehabilitative programmes and the quality of such programmes.)

## **Older People**

### [Impact assessment for Commissioner for Older People \(Scotland\) Bill](#)

Colin Smyth MSP has written to the Convenor of the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee with an Equalities Impact Assessment (EQIA) for the Commissioner for Older People (Scotland) Bill.

## **Other Health and Social Care**

### [Health and Social Care Service Renewal Framework](#)

The Scottish Government and COSLA have published a Health and Social Care Service Renewal Framework, including actions to "ensure the sustainability,

efficiency, quality, and accessibility of health and social care services in Scotland". This has been published alongside [Scotland's Population Health Framework](#), aimed at embedding prevention in systems and improving healthy weight. A new public body called NHS Delivery will be established, merging the functions of NHS National Services Scotland (NSS) and NHS Education for Scotland (NES) to create "a single point of accountability and delivery for a wide range of support, training and digital services to the Health and Care system in Scotland". The Framework sets out five key principles for renewal:

- Prevention Principle: Prevention across the continuum of care
- People Principle: Care designed around people rather than the 'system' or 'services'
- Community Principle: More care in the community rather than a hospital focused model
- Population Principle: Population planning, rather than along boundaries
- Digital Principle: Reflecting societal expectations and system need

### [Exploring future demand for healthcare services](#)

Public Health Scotland (PHS) has published an analysis of the possible future demand for healthcare services in Scotland over the next decade, focusing on unplanned NHS hospital activity and based on historic trends and projected demographic change. 'Projecting Future Demand for Health and Care Services in Scotland (2024-2034) - A Focus on Unplanned Inpatient Admissions to Acute Hospitals' reportedly estimates an 11.8% rise in unplanned hospital admissions between 2024 and 2034, from approximately 586,000 to 656,000, driven primarily by the impacts of an ageing population.

### **Other**

#### [Review of supported bodies landscape](#)

The Scottish Parliament's SPCB Supported Bodies Landscape Review Committee has published its report on a review of the Scottish Parliament's Corporate Body (SPCB)'s supported bodies landscape. There are currently seven officeholders directly responsible to the Scottish Parliament, including the Scottish Commissioner for Children and Young People, Scottish Human Rights Commission, and Scottish Public Services Ombudsman, and proposal for a further five including a Patient Safety Commissioner for Scotland, a Members Bill proposing a Disability Commissioner, and a Members Bill proposing an Commissioner for Older People. The report's recommendations include the creation of a clear strategic framework including much strengthened accountability and scrutiny mechanisms, an enhanced shared services approach and a new formal process for considering future proposals to create new such bodies. The Committee also recommends that the Scottish Government "urgently undertakes a strategic mapping exercise to identify the functions of all Scottish public bodies and where they overlap, to inform decisions on future size, structure, and coherence across the public sector."

**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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