

20 – 26 June 2025




# Adult and Health


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## Alcohol and Drugs

### [Scotland's alcohol consumption still above safe levels](#)

Data from Public Health Scotland suggests people are drinking 50 per cent above safe limits, with adults who drink alcohol consuming an average of 21.6 units per week. The latest update to the Public Health Scotland Alcohol Consumption and Harms dashboard shows that while the volume of alcohol sold is decreasing, it remains higher than the amount sold per adult in England and Wales.

## Care Homes/Care at Home

### [Telecare users advised to contact network ahead of digital switchover](#)

The ALLIANCE has drawn attention to the National Telecare Campaign which urges telecare users and/or carers to contact their landline provider ahead of the switchover from analogue to digital for the UK's telephone network. BT, VMO2 and the UK Government have launched the campaign to ensure telecare users have informed providers that they use a telecare device.



### [Latest statistics on people waiting for care assessment or package of care](#)

Public Health Scotland has released the latest statistics on people requiring a social care assessment and care at home services. The figures show a 3 per cent increase in the estimated number of people waiting on a social care assessment or package of care, compared with June last year. The estimated number of people assessed and waiting for a care at home package fell by 6 per cent compared with this time last year. In respect of those people waiting for care at home following an assessment of their needs, the total number of hours of care that they were waiting to receive was estimated to be 27,111. This is a 14 per cent decrease from the estimated number of hours at this time last year.

## **Disability**

### [Disability Equality Plan](#)

The Scottish Government has published the Disability Equality Plan, which is an update to the Fairer Scotland for Disabled People delivery plan published in 2016. The plan reflects the Government's commitment to ensure that the voices and experiences of disabled people meaningfully considered from the outset of policy making. It takes into account the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on disabled people and the cost-of-living crisis, and sets out how the Government and partners intend to address the barriers facing disabled people and help them to realise their rights under UNCRPD.

## **Equalities**

### [New EDI targets to eliminate Fitness to Practise disparities at NMC](#)

The Nursing and Midwifery Council has launched new equality, diversity and inclusion targets to drive fairness in its regulatory processes and for its own staff. The new targets have been introduced to eliminate disparities in the professional body's Fitness to Practise processes and have been informed by the NMC's Ambitious for Change research programme.

## **Justice**

### [Ministerial Accountability Board set up to prevent custody deaths](#)

Cabinet Secretary for Justice, Angela Constance, has announced details of the new Ministerial Accountability Board which will help drive reforms to prevent avoidable deaths in custody. The Board will include representation from the third sector, legal, operational, research and health sectors, and will provide support to mitigate challenges and ensure action is delivered as quickly as possible to address the recommendations of Sheriff Collins' Fatal Accident Inquiry report into the deaths of Katie Allan and William Lindsay (also known as William Brown).



## **Learning Disability**

### [Learning Disability Support Fund announced](#)

The Scottish Government has announced the Learning Disability Support Fund which will provide new funding awards totalling almost £1.6 million to community projects working directly with people with learning disabilities. The fund will run for 30 months from October 2025.

## **Mental Health**

### [Final report of Mental Health Nursing Review](#)

The Scottish Government has published the final report of the Mental Health Nursing Review. The aim of the review, which began in 2023, was to enhance and support the conditions for mental health nursing to flourish, now and in the future. The report includes 24 recommendations, based around themes including: strengthening the contribution and impact of the profession; leadership; education and development; nurturing the mental health nursing workforce; and rural and islands considerations.

### [Mental Welfare Commission annual report](#)

The Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland has published its 2024-2025 annual report. The report reflects on the Commission's local and themed visit reports, national projects and individual case investigations. The report also focuses on its monitoring and safeguarding care and treatment work and its information and advice function.

## **Older People**

### [Call for views on a new Commissioner for Older People](#)

The Scottish Parliament has launched a call for evidence on a Members' Bill which will establish a Commissioner for Older People in Scotland. The primary purpose of the Commissioner would be to promote and safeguard the rights and interests of people aged 60 and over in Scotland. His or her roles would include reviewing law, policy and practice relating to the rights and interests of older people "with a view to assessing their adequacy and effectiveness and promote best practice by service providers." Additionally, the Commissioner would "promote, commission, undertake and publish research on matters relating to the rights and interests of older people and promote the skills and experience of older people." The call for evidence closes on 12 September 2025.

## **Other Health and Social Care**

### [Survey highlights barriers facing people accessing SDS](#)

The ALLIANCE has published findings of a survey of its members on their experiences with self-directed support (SDS). The survey received 47 responses and



focused on lived experience of any new or increased barriers to accessing SDS. The results show:

- 64 per cent of respondents had had their care packages being reassessed or reviewed
- 49 per cent had been subject to pre-determined decisions
- 47 per cent had faced cuts to their care packages
- 21 per cent were told that there would be caps to payment amounts or support

#### [Covid inquiry completes public impact hearings](#)

The Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry has completed its public impact hearings, which began in October 2023. Over 93 of impact hearings, the Inquiry heard from 364 witnesses and received more than 600 written statements from individuals and organisations. This evidence will inform the Inquiry's investigations, its report and its recommendations to Scottish Ministers.

#### [New Public Service Reform Strategy for Scotland](#)

A Public Service Reform Strategy for Scotland has been published by the Scottish Government. In a statement to Parliament, Public Finance Minister Ivan McKee said the strategy builds on the foundations of the Christie Commission, with a system-wide approach focused on prevention, place, partnership, people and performance. He stressed the importance of understanding the barriers to change and learning from examples where effective preventative measures have taken place. Research setting out learning from 25 years of preventative interventions in Scotland was [published alongside the strategy](#).

#### [Help us build a better website for people who experience care in Scotland](#)

The Care Inspectorate is working on improving its website and we are inviting people who experience care, their families and carers to take part in a short user research survey to help us design a website that is clear, accessible, and easy to use. The survey takes 5-10 minutes to complete.

#### [Thematic review of the care curriculum in Scotland's colleges published](#)

A thematic review of the care curriculum in Scotland's colleges has been published by Education Scotland. The document provides an overview of how well colleges are in planning, promoting and delivering a care curriculum, and the impact on learners. The Review highlights areas of strength as well as persistent challenges, including that too many learners enter care programmes without a full understanding of what's required and too many leave before they complete. A number of recommendations are made, aimed at helping to build "a workforce not only ready to care, but equipped to lead change in one of the most vital sectors in our society".

#### [Committee launches ADHD and ASD support inquiry](#)

An inquiry into Attention Deficit and Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) pathways and support has been launched in the Scottish



Parliament. The Health, Social Care and Sport Committee is seeking to understand: why waiting times for diagnosis and management of ADHD and ASD are reportedly long; how these conditions are diagnosed and managed; the impact of delays on individuals; and possible solutions to improve capacity of services, referral pathways and support. The Committee has launched a [call for views](#) which closes on Monday 18 August.

### **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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