



# Adult and Health

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## Alcohol and Drugs

### [Survey of individuals with experience of using drugs](#)

Public Health Scotland has published 'Evaluation of the National Mission on Drug Deaths: Lived experience survey', presenting the findings of a survey of individuals with experience of using drugs. The survey explores their lived experience, and their views on the support currently available to them, including from Alcohol and Drug Recovery Services, and if the support offer from services has got better or worse over the last two years. Reportedly, just over half of the 494 respondents reported that, overall, they were receiving all or most of the support they needed, and 14% reported that they were getting none of the support they needed.

### [Oversight activity for controlled drugs \(England\)](#)

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has published an annual report for 2024 on their oversight activity under the Controlled Drugs (Supervision of Management and Use) Regulations 2013. Key issues highlighted by the report include the need to improve cross-border prescribing datasets on controlled drugs, access to controlled drugs in care homes for end of life care, and the importance of healthcare professionals working within their scope of practice.





## **Alzheimer's/Dementia**

### [Updated guidance for people with learning disabilities who develop dementia \(England\)](#)

Learning Disability Today is highlighting that the British Psychological Society and the Royal College of Psychiatrists have published updated guidance on managing dementia in people with learning disabilities, which aims to enable those working in clinical and social care services to improve the quality of life of people with intellectual disabilities who develop dementia, by providing guidance to inform assessment, diagnosis, interventions and support. A revision of the second edition 2015 guidance, the guidance is aimed at clinicians in intellectual disabilities and older people's mental health services and services for younger people with dementia.

## **Care Homes/Care at Home**

### [Statement on Tigh-A'Chomainn, Peterculter](#)

A spokesperson for the Care Inspectorate said: "An inspection has identified serious and significant concerns about the quality of care experienced by residents at Tigh-A'Chomainn in Peterculter. We understand this is a difficult and distressing time for residents, their families and staff at the service. However, our first priority is always the health and wellbeing of residents. Because of our concerns we have issued an Improvement Notice to the service. This sets out the significant improvements that must be made within a specified timeframe. We are in contact with and monitoring the service to follow up on the required improvements." The improvement notice can be read [here](#).

### [Findings of the Day and Respite Services survey](#)

The Scottish Government has published 'Day and respite services survey 2024: results', presenting the findings of the survey which aims to provide a national overview of services commissioned by health and social care partnerships and local authorities. The data covers a range of service types for both day and respite care, including specialist building-based services, community-based provision, and services delivered within residential settings, such as respite beds in care homes. There is a broad range of services reportedly available, including day services, respite provision, building-based, community-based, and mixed models, and the majority are delivered by public (217) and third sector (194) providers, with fewer services commissioned from the private sector (55).

## **Carers**

### [Guidance on recruiting and succession planning for carers' representatives](#)

The Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (the ALLIANCE) are highlighting the publication by the Carers Collaborative of guidance on recruitment and succession planning for carer representation for Integrated Joint Boards (IJBs). The guide





reportedly offers a practical route map for IJBs, with clear actions, real-world examples, and resources to strengthen these processes across Scotland.

## **Covid-19**

### [Progress update on UK Covid-19 Inquiry](#)

The Scottish Government has published a progress report on the UK Covid-19 Inquiry for the Module 1 report, setting out actions taken since January 2025 and further work planned over the coming months.

## **Neurodivergence**

### [Funding for organisations supporting autistic adults](#)

The Autistic Adult Support Fund has allocated funding to third sector organisations, the Scottish Government reports. The Autistic Adult Support Fund, launched in 2023, supports third sector organisations to help autistic adults reach their full potential - supporting them, their families and their carers to understand what neurodivergence means for them and improve their wellbeing. The projects allocated funding will aim to “meaningfully involve autistic people in the development, design, and delivery of the support.”

## **Other Health and Social Care**

### [Guidance on provision of social care support](#)

Published by the Scottish Government, ‘Social Care (Self-directed Support) (Scotland) Act 2013: statutory guidance’ has been updated for 2025 to make it clearer that Self-directed Support (SDS) is for everyone in Scotland who needs social care services or support. The guidance explains what authorities should do to make sure that people are able to get the support that is right for them, and is based on the Social Care (Self-directed Support) (Scotland) Act 2013, and covers adults, children, young carers and adult carers. The updates include updated information on the Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) Scheme within Section 5, updated links to footnote references to meet accessibility requirements, and inclusion of references to the new Self-directed Support Standard 13: Direct payments for employing Personal Assistants.

### [Co-Directors announced for pandemic sciences partnership](#)

Public Health Scotland (PHS) has announced the appointment of Co-Directors to the National Scottish Pandemic Sciences Partnership (NSPSP), which aims to strengthen Scotland’s ability to respond to future pandemics through coordinated scientific leadership, robust governance, and strategic collaboration. Professor Deborah Williamson and Professor Emma Thomson as Co-Directors will aim to “foster closer ties between the Scottish Government, Public Health Scotland, and the academic research community, ensuring that policy is informed by cutting-edge science and that Scotland is equipped with the infrastructure and expertise to respond rapidly and effectively to emerging threats.”





### [Annual whistleblowing report for HIS](#)

The annual whistleblowing report for 2025-25 has been published by Healthcare Improvement Scotland. The report covers key performance indicators such as levels of staff awareness and training, total numbers of concerns received and compliance to timescales.

### [Article reflects on European Social Services Conference](#)

Social Work Scotland has published an article reflecting on the recent European Social Services Conference in Denmark. The event, run by the European Social Network, took place over three days, with key themes around relational welfare and welfare technology. Social Work Scotland showcased the Near Me in Prisons project at the event.

### [Progress update on health and social care data strategy](#)

The Scottish Government has published an update progress in the second year of Scotland's first data strategy for health and social care and future priorities. The update provides an overview of key achievements in 2024-25, outlines how those achievements have helped to move towards the vision and ambition of the Strategy while supporting reform of health and social care services, and an overview of priorities for 2025-26.

## **Workforce**

### [Extension to appointment of Interim Convenor of SSSC](#)

The Scottish Government has announced the extension to the appointment of Peter Murray as Interim Convener of the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC). This extension will be for 5 months and will run from 1 July 2025 to 30 November 2025.

### [Social worker filled posts and vacancies six-monthly survey](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has published the Social worker filled posts and vacancies six-monthly survey, presenting data on the whole time equivalent (WTE) number of social workers and social work vacancies in local authority social work services in December 2024. Key findings include, compared to December 2020, the December 2024 survey shows a 10.9% increase in the WTE of practising social workers, and the vacancy rate fell from 9.3% in June 2024 to 8.2% in December 2024.

### [Applications open for voluntary sector fund for staff registration qualification criteria](#)

Applications to the 2025-26 Voluntary Sector Development Fund (VSDF) are open, reports the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC), which supports voluntary sector organisations providing social services that are a registered charity and are registered with the Care Inspectorate. The SSSC administers the VSDF on behalf of the Scottish Government, and the funding aims to help employers to achieve a





qualified workforce. For 2025-2026, the SSSC and Scottish Government would encourage level 7 applications to support supervisors who have had an extension to their qualification condition and still have to gain their practice qualification.

### **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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