

25 July - 7 August 2025







Alzheimer's/Dementia

Disability

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Alzheimer's/Dementia

Latest funding round of grassroots dementia project

Age Scotland is offering funding to local groups working with people living with dementia. The latest round of the Encouraging and Supporting Grassroots Activity (ESGA) fund provides grants of between £5,000 and £20,000 to fund community-led activities, particularly those led by groups in rural or remote areas and those supporting people from ethnic minority and LGBTQ+ communities.

Disability

Review of adult disability payment published

An independent review of Adult Disability Payment has recommended a simplified and more accessible application process. The review, led by Edel Harris, highlighted some people face barriers, complexity and distress when applying for the benefit but acknowledged that the system was "significantly more compassionate" than the UK benefit that it replaced. Fifty recommendations are made in the <u>final report</u>, on factors including how to enhance the client experience, training and guidance for staff and clients, and reviewing eligibility criteria.



Workforce

Scottish Government responds to UK white paper on immigration

The Scottish Government has published a paper outlining its proposals in response to the UK Government's Immigration White Paper. The paper outlines the seven principles of Scottish migration policy and asks that these are paid due regard in the development of immigration policy at UK level. On the health and social care workforce, the Scottish Government requests that the Home Office restore dependent visas for care workers in Scotland to improve recruitment and retention.

Call for views on review of National Occupational Standards

The Scottish Social Services Council is seeking views on the review of the National Occupational Standards for Health and Social Care and Children's Care Learning and Development. The review is considering improvements to simplify terminology, reduce duplication, streamline the performance criteria and ensure any gaps are addressed in the update. The consultation closes on 19 September.

NES introduces Leadership Success Profile

NHS Education for Scotland has announced the new Leadership Success Profile, which is available as part of the Leading to Change programme for those working in social work, social care, health, third and voluntary sectors. The Leadership Success Profile is a holistic framework designed: to support individuals at all stages of their leadership journey; guide organisations in identifying, developing and empowering leaders; and promote inclusive leadership reflecting the needs of diverse communities.

Funding to support social care workers to qualify

The Voluntary Sector Development Fund has been launched for 2025-26, the Scottish Government has announced. The funding supports workers in gaining the qualifications required for registration with the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) and is particularly valuable for small and medium-sized voluntary organisations.

Adult social care vacancy rates return to pre-2021 levels (England)

New data from Skills for Care shows adult social care vacancy rates in England have returned to pre-Covid levels. The annual report highlighted continued growth in the sector between April 2024 and March 2025, despite a significant fall in the number of international recruits. The vacancy rate for 2024/25 fell to 7 per cent, a return to similar levels seen prior to 2021/22 when the rate peaked at 10.5 per cent.



Other Health and Social Care

Latest co-design report on NCS published

The Scottish Government has published a co-design report on the National Care Service (NCS), focused on governance, representation and how lived experience can be embedded in the NCS. Following the Scottish Government's change in approach to the NCS earlier this year, the co-design process explored who should be on the Interim Advisory Board and the skills/experience needed by members.

Iriss Bitesize guide to adult support and protection meetings

Iriss has produced a bitesize video guide explaining how multi-agency Adult Support and Protection meetings work in Scotland. The video includes details about case conferences, such as who is in attendance, how to prepare for one and their structure. Special circumstances and possible outcomes are also covered in the guide.

HIS report highlights low awareness of Yellow Card Scheme on medication

Healthcare Improvement Scotland's (HIS) latest Citizen's Panel report suggests only 10 per cent of people who have suffered side effects from taking medication have reported them to the Yellow Card Scheme. The scheme, which is run by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency, aims to improve underreporting of medicines' side effects. HIS found that 57 per cent of panel members had experienced a side effect or unintended effect from a medicine, but only 10 per cent reported it. It is calling for awareness raising of the Yellow Card Scheme to improve understanding of medicines and safeguard patients.

Survey to explore ethical governance in social care research

A national survey has been launched by the Social Care Research Ethics Working Group and the Scottish Government, to understand and enhance ethical review processes in adult social care and social work research. The survey is keen to hear from staff working across local authorities, Health and Social Care Partnerships and research-active organisations in the third sector.

Strategy focusing on prevention of human trafficking and exploitation

Scotland's Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy 2025 has been published by the Scottish Government, the second strategy focused on prevention of human trafficking and exploitation. The vision of the Strategy is to prevent human trafficking and exploitation in Scotland and to respond effectively when it does occur, and the overarching purpose of this Strategy is to prevent trafficking and exploitation of adults and children by providing a clear framework, informed by survivor voices and data, through which their anti-trafficking interventions will be delivered. In Scotland, the exploitation and trafficking of children is a form of child abuse, requiring a child protection response, and child protection and support for victims of exploitation and trafficking falls within the broader Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) approach to improving outcomes for children and young people. Amongst other stated



outcomes, the strategy aims to ensure that child and adult victims are identified, protected and supported to safety and long-term recovery, and conditions that expose children, adults and communities in Scotland to increased risks of trafficking and retrafficking are addressed.

Social work and social care data analysis event

Iriss is holding a free online event offering an introduction to data analysis for social work and social care. The event, to be held online on 28 August, has been created to address the confidence gap discussed raised by professionals in the sector and "demystify" data analysis.

<u>Digital intelligence platform aimed at improving quality of care (England)</u>

Care England has announced the launch of a new digital intelligence platform, described as a "strategic resource that turns insight into action, supporting continuous improvement". The platform, which will use data from regulators, commissioners and providers, includes features such as quality improvement planning tools, mock inspection capabilities to help providers prepare for CQC visits, and a roadmap which presents live examples of excellent practice as recorded in CQC inspections.

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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