

5 – 11 September 2025



bulletin



Adult^{and} Health

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Alcohol and Drugs

[Funding for substance misuse projects supporting women and young people](#)

Funding has been announced by the Scottish Government for services supporting women affected by drugs and preventing substance use by young people. Aberlour Children's Charity will receive funding for its perinatal support and recover services and the Corra Foundation will receive support to make it easier for women affected by substance use to access services. The 'Winning Scotland's Planet Youth' initiative has also been allocated funding.



Alzheimer's/Dementia

[New blood test could offer more accurate Alzheimer's diagnosis](#)

A trial led by researchers at University College London will see more than 1000 people with suspected dementia offered a blood test for Alzheimer's disease, the BBC reports. Scientists believe the blood test will improve the accuracy of diagnoses from 70 per cent to more than 90 per cent. Patients from across the UK will be recruited at 20 memory clinics as part of the study, which aims to see how well the test works within the NHS.

Care Homes/Care at Home

[Impact of physical activity in care homes highlighted in new report \(England\)](#)

Research by Care England highlights the benefits of regular, inclusive physical activity in care homes or older people. The findings are based on a study at Tanglewood Care Homes where weekly seated exercise sessions have been delivered to residents since August 2024. These sessions, tailored for accessibility, have led to increased mobility, emotional resilience, reduced isolation, and stronger relationships between residents and staff. The final report recommends that physical activity be recognised as essential, not optional, in adult social care. It also calls for workforce development through physical activity training and empowerment of GPs and social prescribers to refer care home residents to in-house exercise programmes.

End of Life/Palliative Care

[Palliative Care Strategy and initial delivery plan](#)

The Palliative Care Strategy 2025-30 has been published by the Scottish Government. The document is organised into six actions groups, covering actions which aim to enable communities, deliver palliative care, support future care planning, education and learning, collecting data and experiences, and governance and reporting. The Scottish Government has published the [initial delivery plan](#) for the palliative care strategy, covering the period 2025-28. The delivery plan is accompanied by timelines for each action.

Equalities and Human Rights

[New briefings and resources published by human rights partnership](#)

The Health and Human Rights Partnership – a joint initiative by the ALLIANCE, Public Health Scotland and the University of Strathclyde – has published three new resources:

- [Commissioning Peer Research to Support Human Rights in Practice: Guidance for Duty Bearers](#) will support duty bearers to use existing peer research in their decision-making and in commissioning new peer research.

- [Exploring the alignment of public health and human rights legal duties in Scotland](#) is a briefing paper intended to inform implementation planning for the proposed Human Rights Bill for Scotland. The briefing has mapped areas of alignment, and potential divergence, between existing public health duties and the proposed legal duties under the Bill as these duties are currently understood.
- [Health and human rights: Rights-based decision-making in healthcare settings](#), published as part of SNAP 2 actions, is a preliminary mapping exercise highlighting real world examples of rights-based decision making in healthcare settings.

Justice

[First part of justice social work statistics published](#)

The Scottish Government has published part 1 of the Justice Social Work Statistics for 2024-25. The statistics show the number of diversion from prosecution cases commenced rose by seven per cent between 2023-24 and 2024-25. There were 1,200 statutory custody-based throughcare cases commenced in 2024-25, a 13 per cent increase on the previous year. Meanwhile the number of community-based throughcare cases rose by 20 per cent, the second highest level in the last ten years.

Workforce

[New legislation from Disclosure Scotland](#)

The Care Inspectorate has flagged new legislation from Disclosure Scotland, which was enacted on 1 April 2025 to make the PVG scheme a legal requirement for anyone carrying out a regulated role. Staff and volunteers carrying out a regulated role must be members of the PVG scheme, and providers employing them (paid or unpaid) must have received a PVG scheme disclosure before the staff member or volunteer commences their regulated role. The Care Inspectorate and the SSSC support implementation of the new legislation from Disclosure Scotland. Providers must ensure staff are recruited in line with legislative requirements, and to ensure that unsuitable people cannot carry out a regulated role.

Other Health and Social Care

[Scottish Government preparing for Exercise Pegasus](#)

Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care, Neil Gray, has written to the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee to inform members of the forthcoming Tier 1 national pandemic exercise, led by the UK Government. Exercise Pegasus is designed to test the UK's response to a future pandemic caused by a novel infectious disease. It will involve a 'live play' scenario with real-time decision-making and coordination across all UK Government departments and devolved governments. The Cabinet Secretary said the exercise is a key opportunity to reinforce Scotland's preparedness and contribute to UK-wide preparedness for future pandemics.



[Adult support and protection data for 2024-25 published](#)

The Adult Support and Protection National Minimum Dataset 2024-25 has been published by the Scottish Government. The data shows that last financial year, there were 63,144 Adult Support and Protection (ASP) referrals reported and a total of 47,314 ASP inquiries were reported as being undertaken. The largest number of inquiries reported as being undertaken, by age and gender, was for people reported as female and aged 65+. The most common primary location of harm reported, where someone was the subject of an inquiry, was the individual's own home, with the second most common primary location of harm reported being care homes.

[New support for unpaid carers](#)

The Scottish Government has published the Carer's Assistance (Miscellaneous and Consequential Amendments, Revocation, Transitional and Saving Provisions) (Scotland) Regulations 2025. The regulations, which are subject to Parliamentary approval, will introduce Carer Support which is a new benefit combining three components: Carer Support Payment, Scottish Carer Supplement, and Carer Additional Person Payment. The Scottish Government is proposing other changes to carer support, including extending eligibility for the Young Carer Grant and Carer Support.

[Cross-party talks on National Care Service for England](#)

Learning Disability Today has reported on the first cross-party roundtable discussions hosted by Baroness Casey, Chair of the Independent Commission on Adult Social Care in England. The Commission has met with over 180 people so far, including people experiencing care and representatives from national organisations. The first phase of the Commission's work will be completed in mid-2026 and a report is due to identify issues facing adult social care and recommend medium-term reforms, with a key on how to implement a National Care Service. The second phase – to be reported by 2028 – will make longer-term recommendations for the sector.

[NES and Glasgow Caledonian University announce partnership](#)

NHS Education for Scotland and Glasgow Caledonian University have announced a strategic collaboration which will focus on transforming the delivery of health and social care services and addressing key challenges within Scotland including population health needs, reducing inequalities, driving accessibility and innovation. Key aims including developing the current and future workforce through widening participation, supporting research capabilities and enhancing the efficiency of public sector funding for research, innovation and education.

**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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