

19 – 25 September 2025



bulletin



# Adult and Health

[Alcohol and Drugs](#)[Alzheimer's/Dementia](#)[Learning Disabilities](#)[Mental Health](#)[Workforce](#)[Other Health & Social Care](#)**Alcohol and Drugs**[Majority of Health Committee MSPs do not support recovery legislation](#)

The majority of MSPs on the Parliament's Health, Social Care and Sport Committee members do not support the general principles of the Right to Addiction Recovery (Scotland) Bill. Within the committee's Stage 1 report, members raised concerns regarding a "narrow focus" within the Bill and the cost of implementation set out in financial statements. Concerns were also raised on whether legal rights alone can overcome cultural, capacity, and resource barriers. Given the lack of support, the Committee is unable to recommend that the Member's Bill, in the name of Conservative MSP Douglas Ross, be agreed to.

[Alcohol deaths in Scotland fall by 7 per cent](#)

The BBC reports on the latest figures from National Records of Scotland suggesting alcohol-related deaths fell to their lowest number in 2024. The statistics show a 7 per cent decrease in deaths from alcohol-specific causes since 2023, when the number of deaths hit a 15-year record high. Male deaths continued to account for about two thirds of the fatalities, but both male and female alcohol deaths decreased in the past year.



## **Alzheimer's/Dementia**

### [Volunteers required for discussion on product design's impact on daily life](#)

The Dementia Services Development Centre (DSDC) has received funding from the British Society of Gerontology to explore how the design of products impact on people living with a diagnoses of dementia. With the funding, DSDC will host two small roundtable meetings, to gain valuable insight from people with lived experience. They will then use the feedback to create guidance and information for care partners, designers and product specifiers. The events will take place on 23 and 27 October at the University of Stirling.

## **Learning Disabilities**

### [Quarterly data on learning disabilities and complex needs](#)

Public Health Scotland has published a statistical report on learning disabilities and complex needs. The quarterly release shows an estimated 1,312 people were registered on a Dynamic Support register (DSR) as of June 2025, representing a 13.4 decrease since last year. Of those people on the DSR, 353 were classified in the urgent category, including 171 people in hospital of which 78 were classified as a delayed discharge. The purpose of a DSR is ultimately to avoid people with learning disabilities living or staying too long in hospitals, or in out-of-area placements which they/their family have not chosen.

## **Mental Health**

### [Research briefing on men's mental health](#)

The Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe) has published a briefing on men's mental health in Scotland,. The briefing summarises emerging trends in mental health challenges and highlighting gender-specific patterns in areas such as suicide, loneliness and isolation, and the mental health impacts of addiction and fatherhood. A summary of existing policy approaches in Scotland is also provided.

## **Workforce**

### [Social care staff invited to get a free flu vaccine](#)

The Care Inspectorate, Scottish Social Services Council, Scottish Care and the Coalition of Care and Support Providers in Scotland are reminding social care staff of all ages that they are eligible to receive the flu vaccine. The winter vaccine programme is targeted at those delivering direct care, whether employed by local authorities, independent or third sector employers. Social care organisations and employers have discretion to assess if their workforce, or a proportion of it, are in direct contact with people receiving services, including those working with children and young people. Individuals are asked to self-identify as a social care worker who has direct contact with people receiving services when booking vaccination appointments or when arriving at a vaccination clinic.



### [One year of NMC's Safeguarding Hub](#)

The Nursing and Midwifery Council is celebrating one year of its Safeguarding Hub, which has been used to review more than 5000 fitness to practise referrals to identify potential risk and put the right support in place immediately. Over the last 12 months, the hub has identified 1,262 potential safeguarding concerns from new referrals which have then been taken forward for a full review by a multi-professional group with expertise in safeguarding and wellbeing.

### [Digital Health and Care Leadership Programme open for applications](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) are highlighting that applications for cohort 28 of the Digital Health and Care Leadership Programme (DLP) are open to all health and social care settings in Scotland including health, social care, social work, housing, charities and the third sector. The programme is designed for anyone who would like to develop their leadership skills and is interested in digital health and care. It includes a series of interactive learning sessions and peer support groups to allow participants to progress a digital project within their organisation.

### **Other Health and Social Care**

#### [Latest co-design findings on how to improve independent advocacy](#)

The latest National Care Service co-design report on independent advocacy has been published as part of the Scottish Government's ongoing engagement with people and organisations to improve social care support, community health and social work. The report summarises the main lessons learned from co-design activity and sets out the Government will respond to these findings. Actions include the launch of a new independent advocacy social care fund, inclusion of independent advocacy in the NCS Charter of Rights, exploring longer-term funding for support services and working with providers to agree on service standards for independent advocacy.

#### [Framework launched to embrace innovation in health and care](#)

Public Health Scotland has launched the new Innovation Framework, described as a "roadmap to embed innovation" at the heart of work to improve health outcomes for the Scottish population. The Innovation Framework features two main pillars: a focus on prevention as a key part of improving health outcomes and building innovation capability and mindset in the workforce.

#### [Funding to support eye care in the community](#)

Approved independent prescribing (IP) optometrists have received funding from the Scottish Government as part of a new eye care service aimed at reducing hospital admissions. The new Anterior Eye Service will support IP optometrists to treat nine complex eye conditions in the community. The announcement was made by Minister for Public Health, Jenni Minto, as part of National Eye Health Week.

**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.

It should also be noted that the Care Inspectorate has no liability in respect of the content of external websites which may be signposted in this document.