

26 September – 2
October 2025



bulletin



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Alzheimer's/Dementia

[Carers invited to share experiences in survey](#)

The ALLIANCE is supporting Dementia Carers Count in inviting family carers of people with dementia to share their experiences in a new survey. Dementia Carers Count is seeking to understand the pressures facing family carers, develop and improve services, and advocate for change. The 2025 carer survey will support the work of the organisation as they continue to meet with health and social care policy leads across the UK to share findings and stories from carers themselves.

Care Homes/Care at Home

[Meaningful connection good practice guidance](#)

The Care Inspectorate has published [Supporting Meaningful Connection: Good Practice Guidance for Care Homes](#). The guidance will support care homes in ensuring moments of closeness are built into everyday life, and is built on what people have said matters most to them. For many people living in care homes, moments of connection with loved ones are the most important part of their day. Whether it's a chat, a walk in the garden, a favourite song shared, or simply the chance to hold a loved one close, these small moments have a big impact on wellbeing. As one person told us, "Phone calls and video chats are fine, but nothing can replace a hug." The guidance also reflects the principles of Anne's Law.



Care Homes/Care at Home

[Increase in number of people waiting for social care assessment](#)

Public Health Scotland has published statistics showing the number of people waiting on a social care assessment, as well as the number of people waiting for a care at home package following an assessment. The number of people estimated to be waiting on a social care assessment for a package of care was 7,762 on 8 September 2025, representing an increase of just under 25 per cent from the estimated number of people waiting this time last year. The estimated number of people assessed and waiting for a care at home package was 3,135 on 8 September 2025, which is similar to the number of people waiting for a care at home package this time last year. Of those people waiting for care at home following an assessment of their needs, the total estimated number of weekly hours of care that they were waiting to receive was 27,904 – representing a decrease of just over 8 per cent.

Covid-19

[Recurring investment in long Covid services announced](#)

The Scottish Government has announced year-on-year funding for specialist services aiming to address long-term affects caused by Covid-19 and other similar health conditions. Around £4.5 million will be allocated to health boards this year and in future years on a recurring basis, to recruit skilled staff and develop sustainable services. Patients with myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME), chronic fatigue syndrome and similar conditions will also be eligible for referral. Services could include managing fatigue or breathlessness, physiotherapy and rehabilitation.

Disabilities

[Disability Commissioner legislation withdrawn](#)

It has been confirmed that independent MSP, Jeremy Balfour, has withdrawn his Member's Bill which, if passed, would have established a Disability Commissioner for Scotland. The Bill was withdrawn on 30 September and as it had not yet completed Stage 1, Parliament was not required to agree it being withdrawn.

End of Life/Palliative Care

[Research briefing exploring Assisted Dying Bill and ECHR](#)

The Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe) has published a briefing on the rights in the European Convention of Human Rights (ECHR) in the context of potential Stage 2 amendments to the Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill. It covers the role of the ECHR, both in creating enforceable rights for individuals in the UK and in constraining the legislative competence of the Scottish Parliament.



Equalities

[Concern over operation of the Public Sector Equality Duty](#)

A report has been published by the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee in the Scottish Parliament on the Operation of the Public Sector Equality Duty in Scotland. It is of concern to the Committee that while a number of public authorities may be meeting certain compliance and process requirements in relation to the PSED, there is not nearly enough focus on delivering outcomes. Members said there needs to be a significant shift in culture to focus on outcomes as well as processes, ensuring that public bodies have a robust understanding of the PSED and the Equality Act 2010.

Older People

[Growing inequalities highlighted in state of care for older people report](#)

Age UK has published its State of Health and Care of Older People report, marking the tenth anniversary of the annual report. The charity concludes in the report that older people are facing the biggest problems resulting from “a rundown health and care system”, such as declining health, unequal access to services and growing pressures on unpaid carers and frontline staff. The report also shows that while the number of older people in the UK continues to rise, healthy life expectancy at age 65 has dropped to 11.2 years for females and 10.1 years for males.

Workforce

[Details of fair pay agreement process announced](#)

The UK Government has announced details of a forthcoming pay rise for adult social care workers in England, as part of the establishment of a new negotiating body for the sector. A consultation on the negotiating body for England, which will lead on the creation of a fair pay agreement, has been launched this week. Negotiations are expected to begin in 2027. Scotland and Wales will have separate negotiating bodies and will engage their respective sectors separately on their establishment.

[Service matching students and care employers](#)

The ALLIANCE has highlighted the work of Social Side Gig, which supports care organisations by connecting employers and students looking for part time social care roles. Social Side Gig successfully piloted this model in 2024-25, resulting in 100 per cent of participants remaining in employment 9 months after starting. Organisations also reported high levels of satisfaction with candidates and students found their roles to be personally fulfilling.



[Literature review on impact of unpaid care on gender pay gap](#)

As part of its Fair Work Action Plan, the Scottish Government has published a literature review of recent evidence on unpaid care and the gender pay gap. The review explores how unpaid caring responsibilities (childcare and social care) influence determinants of the gender pay gap. The findings of the review have been shared with the Fair Work Oversight Group for awareness.

[End of year report on Safe Staffing Programme](#)

The Care Inspectorate and Improvement Service have published the Safe Staffing Programme End of Year Report 2024-2025. The report reflects on activities delivered by the Programme, including external information sessions, internal meetings to raise awareness and an online newsletter. The report also shares positive feedback from social care providers and Care Inspectorate staff who had participated in these events, and highlights opportunities for the Programme team to provide ongoing support.

[Workforce data report for 2024](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has published their Report on 2024 Workforce Data, combining administrative data from the Care Inspectorate with data collected by the SSSC directly from local authorities to form a comprehensive picture of the paid workforce employed in the social service sector in Scotland at the end of 2024. This report provides an overview of the data at a national level and divided by sub-sector or local authority area and key findings include that the Scottish social service workforce increased to its highest level yet (214,750) in 2024, and the day care of children workforce continues to grow, reaching 42,250, driven specifically by nurseries and out of school care settings.

Other Health and Social Care

[Date announced for rollout of health and social care app](#)

Scotland's new health and social care app, MyCare.scot, is to be launched across the country in April 2026. The app aims to transform how people use, access and interact with health and social care services. Users will be given a secure digital identity, access to personal information and later on, the ability to book appointments and check test results. Dermatology outpatients in Lanarkshire will be first to get access to the app in December, before it is progressively rolled between 2026 and 2030. MyCare will eventually be expanded to hospital-based services, before including other areas of the health and social care system, including GP practices, pharmacy, social work and social care. The Scottish Government has published a [high level summary of the national rollout plan](#).



[Report on the Proposed National Good Food Nation Plan](#)

The Scottish Parliament's Health, Social Care and Sport Committee has published their [Report on the Proposed National Good Food Nation Plan](#). The Committee suggests the Plan remains “quite siloed” in its approach and doesn't have the detail on mechanisms to foster collaboration to deliver its outcomes. The report recommends that the Scottish Government set out the mechanisms it will put in place to ensure competing priorities don't inhibit the Plan's stated outcomes. The Committee is firmly of the view that, for a Good Food Nation to be successfully realised, the health and social care sectors will need to be involved as equal partners in the development and delivery of national and local plans, both as procurers of food for patients and residents, but also with respect to addressing wider public health concerns.

[Joint statement on prevention and health inequalities](#)

The ALLIANCE, Voluntary Health Scotland and other partners have issued a joint statement setting out what is needed to urgently tackle health inequalities in Scotland. The statement outlines the organisations' shared vision for prevention and recommendations for identifying and tackling root causes before negative outcomes occur. The statement is accompanied by good practice examples that demonstrate primary, secondary and tertiary prevention in and with communities.

[Views sought on reform of NHS support and delivery body](#)

The Scottish Government has opened a consultation on proposals to reform national support and delivery services in the health and social care system. The Scottish Government intends to combine the functions of NHS Education for Scotland and NHS National Services Scotland to create NHS Delivery, a new national organisation designed to facilitate broader transformation across NHS Scotland and beyond. The consultation on these proposals closes on 30 November 2025.

**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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