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Consultation survey on Anne's Law

We would like your feedback on Anne's Law (The Care Home Services (Visits to and by Residents) (Scotland) Regulations 2026). Following the experiences of care home residents during the Covid-19 pandemic, Scottish Ministers committed to making a law to ensure that people living in adult care homes can stay connected with their loved ones. That law is known as Anne's Law, in memory of Anne Duke, and was enacted in July 2025 as part of the Care Reform (Scotland) Act. This law requires regulations and a code of practice to guide how it will work in practice, and our survey presents the draft regulations and asks you questions about them. Some of the wording of the regulations is based on the Care Reform (Scotland) Act and cannot be changed but where things are unclear further explanations and examples can be included in the code of practice. On average, the survey will take around 20 minutes to complete and will close on Friday 17 October.



Care Homes/Care at Home

Statement - Castlehill Care Home, Inverness

The Care Inspectorate has issued an Improvement Notice after an inspection at a care home in Inverness identified serious and significant concerns about the care experienced by residents. The inspection was carried out at the end of September 2025 and a report of the inspection will be published on our website. Earlier inspections identified areas for improvement and three Improvement Notices have been issued in relation to this service in the last 12 months. A report of the most recent inspection will be published in due course.

Disability

Housing and the right to independent living

The Scottish Commission for People with Learning Disabilities (SCLD) has published a blog discussing the housing challenges for people with learning disabilities to live independently. The barriers that can reportedly exist include a shortage of accessible homes, inconsistent housing advice, and funding pressures, plus the belief that people need "specialist accommodation" with lots of extra and expensive features.

Equalities

Poverty in Scotland

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation has published 'Poverty in Scotland 2025', outlining the poverty rates and progress on targets, priority families and overlap between groups, and barriers and drivers. The report also lists recommendations for the next Scottish Parliament and actions to for the UK and Scottish Governments.

Justice

Overcrowding in prisons

The HM Chief Inspector of Prisons for Scotland has published a letter written in September 2025 to the Cabinet Secretary for Justice on concerns about the issue of overcrowding in Scotland's prisons. The response from the Cabinet Secretary, also published, discusses work to support a sustainable reduction in the prison population.

Review of domestic homicide and suicide review standards

Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS) has been commissioned by the Scottish Government to work with stakeholders to develop standards which support a multi-agency and multidisciplinary response to domestic homicide and suicide. The standards will be closely aligned to the work developed under the remit of the Scottish Government's Domestic Homicide and Suicide Review Taskforce and the legislative framework of the Criminal Justice Modernisation and Abusive Domestic Behaviour Reviews (Scotland) Bill. The standards development group's work is



currently underway and a scope document will be published for public consultation in January 2026.

Bill to introduce Abusive Domestic Behaviour Reviews passed by MSPs

A Bill that will introduce a process for reviewing deaths which relate to abusive behaviour within relationships has been passed unanimously by MSPs. The <u>Criminal Justice Modernisation and Abusive Domestic Behaviour Reviews (Scotland) Bill</u> sets out a statutory framework for a national system of reviews into homicides or suicides connected to domestic abuse. During debate, Justice Secretary Angela Constance announced that she has commissioned Healthcare Improvement Scotland to work with stakeholders to develop national standards for domestic homicide and suicide reviews, with scoping workshops to be held next month. A standards development group (co-chaired by Professor John Devaney of the University of Edinburgh and Dr Edward Doyle, deputy medical director of NHS Lothian) is to be established.

Older People

NHS-supported brain health app

The Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (the ALLIANCE), are publicising 'Ageing Well', a brain health app designed to improve long-term health outcomes for people managing chronic conditions, those focused on brain health, or those affected by dementia. Developed by Red Star with funding from the Chief Scientist's Office through the Scottish Health Industry Partnership (SHIP), Aging Well has been created in close collaboration with West of Scotland Innovation Hub, the app helps users take practical steps to support their brain and overall health. It allows people to easily track their conditions, appointments, vitals, medications and daily routines, while also providing accessible information and tips on dementia prevention and healthy ageing.

Other Health and Social Care

Non-surgical Procedures and Functions of Medical Reviewers (Scotland) Bill

The Scottish Government has introduced the Non-surgical Procedures and Functions of Medical Reviewers (Scotland) Bill to introduce rules about non-surgical procedures, and offering non-surgical procedures will become illegal in certain circumstances. The Scottish Government has introduced the Bill to make sure that non-surgical procedures are safe, hygienic, and regulated, and also wants to update the rules around certification of death.

Workforce

SSSC article reflects on year following registration changes

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has published an article reflecting on the year since the introduction of a number of changes to help make registration simpler and easier to understand. Director of Regulation Hannah Coleman highlights



the difference she feels the changes are making in relation to the workforce and public protection.

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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