

17 – 23 October 2025



bulletin



Adult and Health


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Adult Support and Protection

[Adult Support and protection large scale investigation guidance](#)

The Scottish Government has published 'Adult Support and Protection: Large Scale Investigation guidance', which builds on the 2023 Large Scale Investigation (LSI) Framework and aims to improve the quality and effectiveness of LSIs. It includes sections on instigating, commencing, conducting and concluding LSIs. There is also a section on work that councils can undertake to help prevent the need for LSIs.

Alcohol and Drugs

[National testing and research laboratory for checking drugs](#)

The University of Dundee will host a national testing and research laboratory for drug-checking and will analyse samples to help respond to emerging trends such as highly dangerous synthetic substances, the Scottish Government reports. Additionally, a proposal for a drug-checking service in Glasgow has been approved by the Home Office, and applications for similar services in Aberdeen and Dundee have been submitted. The Leverhulme Research Centre for Forensic Science (LRCFS) at the University of Dundee will provide more complete analysis of samples from the local sites, giving vital information for the national early warning system.



End of Life/Palliative Care

[Overview briefing on palliative care and assisted dying](#)

The Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe) has published 'Palliative care and assisted dying', providing an overview of palliative care in Scotland and provides further information on the relationship between assisted dying and palliative care in other jurisdictions.

[Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Terminally Ill Adults \(End of Life\) Bill](#)

The Scottish Parliament's Health, Social Care and Sport Committee has published a report on the Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill, recommending granting consent for Clause 43, which would prohibit advertising of voluntary assisted dying services in Scotland.

Mental Health

[Evidence review of perspectives on self-harm as a barrier to accessing support](#)

The Scottish Government has published 'People who self-harm: rapid evidence review and survey of practitioner perspectives', a rapid evidence review and survey of practitioner perspectives investigated if self-harm can be a barrier to accessing support and services, and what measures can be taken to overcome these barriers. Both the evidence review and practitioner survey reportedly indicate a range of barriers, including stigma, fear of judgment, restrictive service eligibility criteria, and long waits for support, and a number of facilitators that can improve access and engagement, such as person-centred, trauma-informed approaches, compassionate practitioner responses, and more flexible and inclusive service criteria.

[Webinar on suicide prevention in rural areas \(18 November 2025\)](#)

The Institute for Research and Innovation in Social Services (Iriss) will hold a webinar on Tuesday 18 November 2025 introducing Scotland's Suicide Prevention Strategy, 'Creating Hope Together', and showcase examples of good work taking place specifically designed to support rural communities. Speakers Haylis Smith (National Delivery Lead for Suicide Prevention) will be sharing how to connect with this initiative and sharing examples of practice, and Josie Barclay will speak about the work of the Royal Scottish Agricultural Benevolent Institution (RSABI).

Other Health and Social Care

[Announcement of National Social Work Agency head](#)

The Head of the National Social Work Agency (NSWA) has been announced as Joanna Macdonald, Community Care reports. The NSWA will start in spring 2026, and Ms Macdonald will combine this role with that of National Chief Social Work Adviser. The NSWA will form part of a new Scottish Social Work Partnership, comprising local government employer body COSLA and professional leadership organisation Social Work Scotland, and the NSWA's functions will include



contributing to national policy that impacts social work practice, raising the profile of social work and championing the profession, taking a national approach to monitoring workforce numbers, and supporting and driving improvement across the social work sector.

[Scottish Social Work Partnership seeking views](#)

Social Work Scotland has highlighted an engagement pack, published by the Scottish Social Work Partnership which is made up of the Office of the Chief Social Work Adviser, COSLA and Social Work Scotland. The Partnership is leading a national conversation to shape the future of social work and is seeking views from social work students, practitioners and leaders on their experiences, challenges and aspirations of working in the sector. The [engagement pack](#) includes a survey and the Partnership will use this and other engagement to inform its strategic plan. The final strategic plan will be published in May 2026.

[Scottish Health Survey](#)

The Scottish Government has published the results of the Scottish Health Survey 2024, with information on the health, and factors relating to health, of adults and children in Scotland. Key findings include that half of all adults now have at least one long-term condition, 8% of adults report having doctor-diagnosed diabetes, the highest level recorded, and 15% of adults reported being unpaid carers.

[Revised Digital Health and Social Care Human Rights Principles](#)

The Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (the ALLIANCE), Scottish Care and VOX Scotland, have published 'Human Rights Principles for Digital Health and Social Care', a revised version following an engagement and review process. They have also published examples of good practice in action and a guide offering support in how to design, deliver and evaluate right based digital services.

[CQC consults on proposals to improve assessments, judgements and ratings \(England\)](#)

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has launched a consultation on proposals to improve how they assess health and care services, make judgements, and award ratings. The proposed changes concern developing their frameworks and guidance for assessing providers, and improving how they assess and rate providers.

[Chief Executive of CQC steps down \(England\)](#)

Sir Julian Hartley is stepping down as Chief Executive of the Care Quality Commission (CQC) with immediate effect. Dr Arun Chopra, Chief Inspector of Mental Health, is planned to assume the role of Interim Chief Executive until a permanent successor is appointed. Due to his time as Chief Executive at the Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, and the inquiry into maternity services there, Sir Hartley feels that his current role at the CQC has become incompatible and he wishes to avoid his connection with Leeds NHS Trust impacting on the work of the CQC.



Workforce

[Learner pathways in Quality Improvement](#)

NHS Education For Scotland has launched learner pathways in their Quality Improvement Zone to help staff build the knowledge and confidence needed to use QI methods. Practical QI, is for anyone who wants to get hands-on experience with QI tools and techniques, and Managing QI, is for managers and team leaders who guide teams through change and improvement.

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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