

24 – 30 October 2025

**bulletin**


Adult and Health

[Alcohol and Drugs](#)[Alzheimer's/Dementia](#)[Care Homes/Care at Home](#)[Covid-19](#)[Disabilities](#)[End of Life/Palliative Care](#)[Older People](#)[Workforce](#)[Other Health & Social Care](#)**Alcohol and Drugs**[Charity future secured after takeover](#)

The Jericho Society will continue to offer drug rehabilitation services at its three locations in Scotland following a takeover by Abbeycare, The Herald reports. The charity runs two houses in Greenock and another in Dundee.

Alzheimer's/Dementia[Advice on Halloween in care environments](#)

The Dementia Services Development Centre has a page setting out the specific difficulties Halloween can pose for people living with dementia. Recommendations include autumnal decorations, a calm environment and routine.

Care Homes/Care at Home[Care home census statistics published](#)

Care home census statistics for 2015 to 2025 have been published by Public Health Scotland. The annual statistics provide information on the number of care homes, registered places, residents, admissions and discharges at Scotland and local authority level, covering a ten year period. Among key findings, on 31 March 2025 there were 1,003 care homes for adults and 39,919 registered places – 18% and 5% fewer, respectively, compared with 31 March 2015. Residents in care



homes for older people accounted for 92% of residents in all care homes for adults.

[Statistics on people requiring a social care assessment and care at home services](#)

Statistics on the number of people waiting for an assessment for social care services have been published. The report presents statistics on the total number of people waiting for an assessment for social care services, the number of people waiting for a care at home package following an assessment, and the weekly number of hours of care they are waiting for. The number of people estimated to be waiting on a social care assessment for a package of care was 7,913 on 6 October 2025, an increase of 32% from this time last year.

[West Highlands taskforce could rethink care, conference hears](#)

A taskforce made up of NHS, council, care provider and community representatives could be asked to rethink social care for older people in the West Highlands, according to [healthandcare.scot](#). The group would reportedly be asked to consider a proposal for four new care home 'clusters' to allow people to move to a care home without having to move away from their communities. The idea was mooted at Highland Social Care Conference.

[Training film on bringing joy of festivals to care home residents](#)

A training film for care homes to bring the joy of festivals to residents has been launched by the Edinburgh Interfaith Association's Fringe Care Fest Training Programme. *Life Goes On!*, sponsored by Scottish Care and Partners for Integration with support from Founding Partner Barchester Healthcare, Randolph Hill Limited, and Asian Art Fund Scotland, suggests ways to bring the joy of festivals to promote inclusion, socialisation and improved mental and physical health.

[Guiding principles for Hospital at Home service development published by HIS](#)

Guiding principles for Hospital at Home service development have been published by Healthcare Improvement Scotland. Containing information for NHS boards and local authority staff involved in the development of hospital at home services, the document is intended to assist in the local and regional planning of specialist services which support people to receive hospital-level care at home. The publication of the guiding principles coincided with the first [National Hospital at Home Event](#).

Covid-19

[Update on Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry](#)

The Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry has issued its October 2025 Chief Executive's Update, detailing progress since the conclusion of its public impact hearings in June. September and October hearings focused on how Covid-19 spread and the factors governments should consider when managing public health emergencies. The inquiry now turns to decision-making and policy implementation during the pandemic, with a preliminary hearing scheduled for 3 March 2026 to outline the next



phase of investigations. No final reporting date has yet been set, as the Inquiry continues to prioritise a thorough, evidence-based process.

[Final Covid Inquiry preliminary hearing for impact on society module](#)

The UK Covid-19 Inquiry has confirmed that it will hold the final preliminary hearing for its investigation into the Impact on Society on 4 November 2025. The Inquiry's tenth and final investigation will examine the impact of Covid-19 on the population of the UK, with a particular focus on key workers, the most vulnerable, the bereaved, and mental health and wellbeing. The investigation will also seek to identify where societal strengths, resilience and/or innovation reduced any adverse impact.

Disabilities

[App launched to help Deaf people access BSL interpreter services more easily](#)

An app to help Deaf people access essential services more easily has been announced by the Scottish Government. SignPort, developed by Deaf Action and Burrotech through the Scottish Government's CivTech programme, will enable Deaf people to book British Sign Language (BSL) interpreters, see who their interpreter will be and communicate with them securely.

End of Life/Palliative Care

[Palliative care webinar – 4 November](#)

A webinar on understanding palliative care and how to connect it to your work will take place on 4 November. The session, with presenters from NHS Education for Scotland and the Scottish Social Services Council among others, will introduce the revised 2025 Palliative Care Education Framework and explore how it links with the Scottish Government's Palliative Care Matters for All strategy.

Older People

[Charity highlights challenges older people face in winter](#)

Information on the challenges older people can face in winter have been highlighted by Age UK. The charity points to the impacts of common respiratory diseases, being affected by chronic or extreme cold, precarious outdoor conditions such as wet or icy weather, and mental health challenges. They also offer tips on equipping older people with the right information to help keep warm, eat well, get vaccinated, stay active and connected.

Workforce

[Updated guidance on employing young people in social care](#)

Guidance on employing 16 and 17 year olds in social care has been updated, with an online version now available. Published by the Scottish Social Services Council, the Care Inspectorate, Skills Development Scotland, Scottish Care and the Coalition



of Care and Support Providers in Scotland, the guide highlights that there are no regulatory barriers to employing 16 and 17-year-olds in social care and helps dispel common myths and misconceptions about employing young people.

[NES Annual Conference – 23/24 April 2026](#)

NHS Education for Scotland (NES) will hold its Annual Conference online in April 2026. The theme of the 2026 Conference is Collaborate. Innovate. Transform: Delivering change towards improving health, social care and other public services in Scotland.

Other Health and Social Care

[Scottish Health Information Integrity Strategy published](#)

A strategy setting out a framework for to address false and misleading health information has been published by the Scottish Government. The strategy, aligning with UK and international practice, focuses on three pillars: leadership and coordination; building Scotland's resilience to false information; and rapid response. The actions set out will aim to help the health and social care system adapt to the new "information landscape", and to respond when widespread misinformation poses a risk to public health.

[Analysis of consultation responses on Long Term Conditions Framework](#)

The Scottish Government has published a report providing independent analysis of responses received to a consultation on the Long Term Conditions Framework. A total of 371 responses were received from individuals and organisations, with respondents supporting a shift toward cross-cutting, person-centred and integrated care, while retaining condition-specific focus where needed. Key themes included the importance of prevention and early intervention, tackling inequalities and ensuring equitable access to information, care and digital services.

[Annual assessment of health and social care published by CQC \(England\)](#)

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has published its annual State of Care report assessing health and social care in England. Key findings include increased demand across a health and social care system that is already under severe pressure, with "unwarranted variation" in people's experience of services across the country and inequality particularly affecting people in the most deprived areas. There are reportedly many challenges in shifting the focus and resources to deliver services in the community, but positive examples of pilot schemes and new initiatives appear to support this change.

[Casey Commission seeking views on future of adult social care \(England\)](#)

The Casey Commission, established to devise long term reforms of adult social care in England, is seeking people's experiences of social care and views on how the system can be improved. The Independent Commission on Adult Social Care is



asking people to share examples of what does and does not work well in adult social care, along with direct experiences of services.

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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