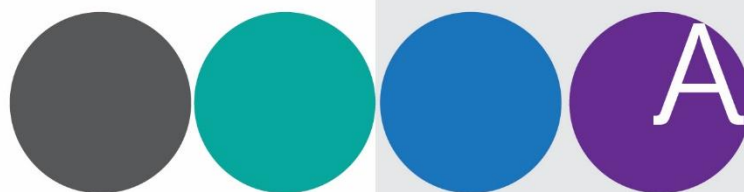


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November 2025



bulletin



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Alzheimer's/Dementia

[Scotland's first Brain Health Centre launched](#)

Scotland's first Brain Health Centre for Health and Social Care has been launched by New College Lanarkshire and Alzheimer Scotland. The two organisations will partner over the next three years, offering a series of projects and campaigns that will, through education, highlight ways of keeping brains healthy.

[Survey to inform dementia-inclusive design education study](#)

A survey to support a study on dementia-inclusive design education has been launched by the University of Stirling. The ADEPT study is seeking to provide the first international snapshot of how dementia-inclusive design is taught, understood, and applied. The survey will help inform the study, which is in response to a key recommendation of the 2020 World Alzheimer Report calling for greater inclusion of dementia design principles in architectural education.

Care Homes/Care at Home

[Donald Macaskill reflects on Highland care proposals](#)

An article by Scottish Care Chief Executive Donald Macaskill has reflected on the recent Highland Care Conference and proposals for new 60-bed care home 'clusters' in the region. As



well as action on funding and immigration, Mr Macaskill suggests a number of other actions to address challenges in the Highlands, including: a Highland Weighting Scheme; flexible models of care; a reformed understanding of what care home provision in remote communities needs to look like; flexible regulatory and registration arrangements for workers and organisations; investment in co-ordinated digital infrastructure to support remote care delivery.

Equalities

[Scottish bodies among those signing statement defending the ECHR](#)

The Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland, Scottish Care and Age Scotland are among 292 organisations to sign a joint statement defending the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) as it reaches its 75th anniversary. Led by Liberty, the statement warns against political and media attacks on the ECHR and stresses its importance in relation to democracy, accountability and dignity.

Infection Prevention and Control

[Latest viral respiratory diseases surveillance report](#)

The latest surveillance report on viral respiratory diseases has been published by Public Health Scotland. Covering the period 27 October to 2 November 2025, the report finds patient attendance at GP practices for influenza-like illness and acute respiratory infection remain at baseline level, usual for this time of year. Covid-19 activity continued to decrease or remain stable across all system measures, including hospital admissions.

Justice

[MSPs approve emergency prisoner release scheme](#)

Plans to release some short-term prisoners early to help address rising prison numbers have been approved by MSPs. The Early Release of Prisoners (Scotland) Regulations 2025 will see convicts serving sentences of less than four years, who are within 180 days of their original release date, be considered for early release. Anyone serving a sentence for sexual offences or domestic abuse, and registered sex offenders, are excluded from the release plan.

Mental Health

[Committee reports on approach to mental health spending](#)

A committee at the Scottish Parliament has published a report suggesting it is difficult to assess the effectiveness of the Scottish Government's approach to mental health spending. In its Pre-Budget Scrutiny Report for 2026-27, the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee notes that it remains difficult to identify links between strategic priorities and how mental health budgets are spent. It calls on the Scottish Government to provide additional data to illustrate how and to what extent mental health budgets can be linked back to the priorities identified.



[Common antibiotic may reduce schizophrenia risk, study finds](#)

A commonly prescribed antibiotic may reduce the risk of some young people developing schizophrenia in adulthood, according to a study led by the University of Edinburgh. The research, published in the American Journal of Psychiatry, analysed data from more than 56,000 adolescents attending mental health services who had been prescribed antibiotics, finding that those treated with doxycycline were significantly less likely to go on to develop schizophrenia in adulthood, compared with patients treated with other antibiotics.

Neurodivergence

[New programme launched by National Autistic Society Scotland](#)

The National Autistic Society Scotland has launched a new programme of support for recently diagnosed or self-identifying autistic adults living in Scotland. Running until March 2028, 'What's next?' will see participants attend a six-week block of online sessions aimed at supporting and empowering autistic people by deepening their understanding of autism and autistic identity, improving wellbeing, and fostering peer connections.

Workforce

[Fitness to Practise consultation launched by SSSC](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has opened a consultation on proposed changes to Fitness to Practise Rules relating to how it responds to concerns it receives about a social service worker. The consultation seeks views on proposed improvements on vulnerable witnesses, the maximum length of Temporary Orders, workers who are unfit to plead, workers with health issues who do not engage with SSSC investigations and on reviews of SSSC decisions. The consultation is open until 26 January 2026.

[Changes to SSSC registration to understand late applications](#)

The SSSC has made changes to the endorsement section of their registration application process, in a bid to understand more about why people apply late and what organisations are doing to manage this. Two new fields have been added to the endorsement section, inviting applicants to explain their reasons for not applying within the required three months and how their organisation has managed their late application.

[NMC consults on proposed registration fee increase](#)

A consultation on proposals to raise the annual registration fee for nurses, midwives and nursing associates has been launched by the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC). The fee increase, equivalent to £1.92 a month, would be the first in a decade. The consultation closes on 26 January.



[Independent review of social work regulation announced by UK Government \(England\)](#)

An independent review of social work regulation has been announced by the UK Government. Led by Dame Annie Hudson, the review will assess how effectively Social Work England is discharging its statutory functions and delivering against its objectives. It will also explore whether changes and improvements could be made to its functions and operations to enable more efficient and effective regulation, and improve the standards of social work practice. A call for evidence has been launched to inform the review.

Other Health and Social Care

[JRF report calls for end to social care charging](#)

A report calling for an end to social care charging has been published by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF). According to the report, charging policies are inconsistent across Scotland, mask unmet need and cause financial hardship. The JRF calls for the Scottish Government and COSLA to “work together without delay to clarify and articulate a clear policy objective, scope and timeline for removing non-residential care charges”.

[Council seeks clarity on Cameron Barracks proposals](#)

The use of Cameron Barracks to provide temporary accommodation for asylum seekers will bring “new and complex challenges”, according to a Highland Council report. The former army recruitment base is to be used as part of UK Government efforts to close asylum hotels, the BBC reports. Council officials have recommended the local authority writes to the Home Office to seek “urgent clarity” on the proposals.

[Committee sets out themes from meeting on social care workers on temporary visas](#)

A committee in the Scottish Parliament has set out a summary of a recent informal briefing with the Worker Support Centre on conditions for social care workers on tied or temporary visas. Writing to Health Secretary Neil Gray, the Social Justice and Social Security Committee highlight a number of themes developed in the meeting, including issues around status insecurity, conditions and oversight. The Committee calls for stronger oversight of sponsorship schemes, fairer employment conditions and clearer pathways for displaced workers to remain in Scotland.

[Webinar recording on enabling digital innovation in social care now available](#)

A webinar on enabling digital innovation in social care and social work, hosted by the Care Inspectorate has been made available on Youtube. Our digital social care team welcomed the Digital Health and Care Innovation Centre (DHI) to share its plans for developing a pathway that supports digital innovation. DHI has released a report, [Digital Innovation in Social Care: Priorities and Opportunities for Scotland](#), and is working with partners to co-design a Digital Innovation Hub. We will be hosting focus group sessions on 12 and 13 November to gather insights and ideas.

**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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