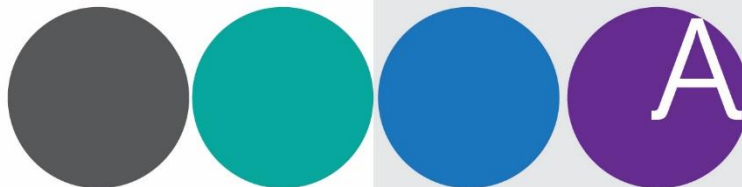


7 – 13 November 2025



bulletin



Adult and Health

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End of Life/Palliative Care

[Committee considers amendments to proposed assisted dying legislation](#)

The Health, Social Care and Sport Committee has voted for Stage 2 amendments to the Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill which would increase the age at which someone suffering from a terminal illness can seek help to die to 18. The Committee also overwhelmingly rejected a call to make assisted dying only available to those aged 25 or over. The Bill had originally proposed people aged 16 and over with a terminal illness should be allowed to seek help to end their life, although the MSP in charge of the Bill, Liam McArthur, had already indicated he would support changing that to the age of 18. Further Stage 2 amendments will be considered at the Committee's next meeting on 18 November.



Infection Prevention and Control

[New date for Covid inquiry preliminary hearing](#)

The Scottish COVID-19 Inquiry has rescheduled its preliminary hearing from 3 March 2026 to 10 March 2026. The preliminary hearing will provide further information about the Inquiry's investigations into implementation and decision-making during the pandemic in Scotland.

Justice

[Paper examining independent advocacy access in prisons](#)

The Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance (SIAA) has published an evidence paper which shows the gaps in independent advocacy provision in justice settings. Based on SIAA membership data analysis and consultations with members, the paper reveals that access to independent advocacy in justice contexts is determined primarily by funding and commissioning structures rather than by need. Referrals ranged from less than 1 per cent to 20 per cent of total organisational caseloads depending on whether dedicated justice funding exists. Only 11 of Scotland's 17 prisons have independent advocacy provision, and the paper suggests access often depends on individual relationships with justice staff rather than systematic referral pathways.

Mental Health

[Draft strategic plan for MWC Scotland](#)

The Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland has produced a first draft of its Strategic Plan for 2026-2029 and supporting consultation document. The organisation is inviting people to read and provide final comments on the plan, which covers the Commission's commitments for 2026-2029 including investigations, engagement and participation, influencing and empowering, and the workforce.

[Record number of Scots under guardianship orders](#)

The 2024-25 monitoring report on the Adults with Incapacity (Scotland) Act 2000 has been published by the Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland. The report suggests the number of individuals now under guardianship orders has reached over 20,000, the highest number recorded. The Commission warns that an increasing population of vulnerable people are being safeguarded by a law which is "decades old and not keeping pace with human rights expectations". The report issues an urgent call for the Scottish Government to deliver the AWI Act reform sooner.



Workforce

[MyLearning QR code generator](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) have launched their self-service MyLearning QR code generator, a simple and effective way for employers and learning providers to help people record their learning quickly and easily. The generator allows people to create bespoke QR codes linked to specific learning activities such as a webinar, presentation or in-person training event without having to contact the SSSC Digital Learning Team.

[Research study to explore impact of social care workforce regulation](#)

The Skills for Care and Development Alliance is commissioning the next phase of a UK and Republic of Ireland-wide research study exploring the impact of workforce regulation in adult social care. The latest phase of the study will gather insights from care providers and people experiencing care, focusing on lived experiences and perceptions of workforce regulation. The findings will inform future policy and practice, contributing to sector reforms and improved care quality. The Alliance has issued an invitation to tender for the qualitative research and stakeholder engagement.

Other Health and Social Care

[Scottish Care Autumn Update](#)

Scottish Care has published its Autumn 2025 Bulletin, including an update from the Care Inspectorate written by Marie Paterson, Chief Inspector for Adults. The bulletin also includes updates from the SSSC, on ethical commissioning and procurement, and personalised approaches which empower people to direct their own care.

[Legislation to introduce new audit rules for charities](#)

The Scottish Government has laid secondary legislation which would raise the audit income threshold for Scottish charities from £500,000 to £1m. If approved, it would come into force on 1 January 2026, and would mean 93% of Scotland's 24,500 charities won't need an audit once the new rules come into force. The change hopes to reduce the administrative and financial burdens on charities and responds to feedback from charities about rising costs and the limited availability of specialist charity auditors.

[Interim Chief Executive appointed at CQC](#)

The Care Quality Commission has confirmed that Dr Arun Chopra will be the Interim Chief Executive until a permanent successor is appointed. Sir Julian Hartley stepped down as Chief Executive with immediate effect in October. Dr While Dr Arun fulfils the role of Interim Chief Executive, Chris Dzikiti has stepped into the role of Interim Chief Inspector of Mental Health. Recruitment for Sir Julian's permanent successor will begin shortly.



[Framework for safety culture in health and social care \(Northern Ireland\)](#)

The Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority (RQIA) regulator has published 'Being Human: A Framework for Safety Culture within Health and Social Care' setting out what good safety culture looks like within health and social care and defining safety culture as one that is safe and compassionate; just and open; and, continually learning and improving.

[Draft Scottish Learning and Improvement Framework for Adult Social Care Support and Community Health](#)

The Scottish Government has published the Draft Scottish Learning and Improvement Framework for Adult Social Care Support and Community Health. Jointly led by Government, COSLA and SOLACE, the Framework aims to improve consistency and clarity across the improvement activity landscape in adult social care. The main objective of the Scottish Learning and Improvement Framework (SLIF) is to support a move from a predominant focus on scrutiny and reporting, to an approach which builds improvement and quality management into the system. It will interface with service level improvement frameworks and also support the system to demonstrate its contribution to existing policy drivers, including the Health and Social Care Standards, National Performance Framework and the PANEL principles.

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.

It should also be noted that the Care Inspectorate has no liability in respect of the content of external websites which may be signposted in this document.