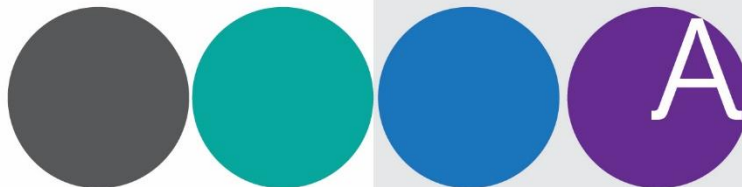


14 – 20 November 2025

**bulletin**


Adult and Health


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Alzheimer's/Dementia
[Latest data on dementia and Alzheimer's related deaths](#)

National Records of Scotland (NRS) has published data for 2024 on Alzheimer's disease and other dementia deaths in Scotland which concludes that there has been a 2 per cent increase in the number of deaths caused by Alzheimer's disease and other dementias compared with 2023. In 2024 6,612 deaths were registered with these conditions as the underlying cause; 121 more than the previous year and the highest number since 2000. The rate of deaths, 122 for every 100,000 people, has almost doubled in the last two decades. In total 10,618 death registrations mentioned Alzheimer's Disease or other dementias.

Digital and Technology
[Self-evaluation tool on use of technology in care](#)

The Care Inspectorate has produced a self-evaluation tool, designed for services that wish to evaluate their use of technology to improve outcomes for people. It is not a workbook or guidance document; it is designed to help services evaluate their digital capabilities and develop an improvement plan. Services are advised that adopting a self-evaluation approach will aid improvement, regardless of whether the service is new to technology or more digitally enabled.



[National learning exchange workshops on digital inclusion](#)

Workshops organised by Digital Health and Care Scotland and other partners are offering support for staff across health, social care and related sectors on digital inclusion. The workshops, taking place between December and February, will offer practical insights and tools to help embed digital equity into everyday practice in mental health, primary care, self-management and social care. Other sessions will focus on working ethnic minority communities and people with disabilities.

[Delivery plan for digital public services](#)

The Scottish Government has published the Sustainable Digital Public Services Delivery Plan 2025-2028. It sets out the actions needed to meet the overall ambition to transform public services through digital innovation, making them smarter, faster and fairer. The Scottish Government aims to achieve this through development of public sector leadership, using data and technology (including AI) ethically, delivering collaborative programmes to improve public service efficiency, and implementation of a formal governance programme to enable better joint decision-making.

[Scottish Government to launch app to improve public services access](#)

The Scottish Government has announced that it is building technical infrastructure to lay the groundwork for innovations to connect people and public services. This foundation will support the launch of a new app in 2026 to help people access personalised public services more easily. The app will initially provide alerts on weather and travel disruption, followed by digital proof of age, with further functionality expanded over time.

End of Life/Palliative Care

[Refreshed education framework for palliative care](#)

NHS Education for Scotland and the SSSC have published a refreshed Palliative Care Education Framework, bringing it into line with the new Palliative Care Strategy and Delivery Plan from the Scottish Government. The updated framework replaces the previous one first published in 2017 and aims to enrich and improve experiences for people of all ages receiving palliative care. Changes reflect current health and social care practice and follows a learner-centred approach.

Workforce

[Developing Allied Health Professions advanced practice roles](#)

The Scottish Government has published 'Transforming Roles paper 9: allied health professions advanced practice', guidance for developing Allied Health Professions (AHP) advanced practice roles with policy context, role definition, education pathways, governance, and impact metrics to support consistent, sustainable workforce transformation across health and social care.



[Views sought on Supported Year for new social workers](#)

The SSSC has asked Iriss to carry out a survey about the Newly Qualified Social Worker (NQSW) Supported Year, to better understand how it working in real life. The Supported Year was introduced in October 2024 and is designed to provide support to new social workers during their first year in practice. The survey is for employers, NQSWs and supervisors and closes on 31 December 2025.

Other Health and Social Care

[Funding to increase social care capacity this winter](#)

The Scottish Government has confirmed £20 million of funding to increase social care capacity over the winter period. Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care, Neil Gray, announced the funding to Parliament during a statement on winter preparations for the NHS. The investment from the 2025-26 health and social care budget to deliver improvements in urgent and unscheduled care and patient flow, linked to the Operational Improvement Plan. It will be targeted at initiatives by health boards to increase social care capacity and provide extra support at the front door of A&Es, in a bid to reduce admissions and relieve pressure on acute services.

[Whistleblowing disclosures report 2024-25](#)

The Care Inspectorate has published its annual report on whistleblowing complaints. The Care Inspectorate records whistleblowing incidents through complaints received from an employee or ex-employee of a registered care service or of the Care Inspectorate. In 2024/25, the Care Inspectorate received one internal whistleblowing complaint from an ex-employee of the Care Inspectorate, which was progressed for investigation. In 2024/25, the regulator received 5,303 complaints about services, of which 1,195 were raised by employees of care services.

[Financial impact of caring revealed in new report](#)

Carers Scotland have published the State of Caring: The Cost of Caring in Scotland 2025 which suggests almost half of unpaid carers have had to cut back on essentials like food and heating because of their caring role. The report also suggests 35 per cent of unpaid carers have taken out loans to make ends meet, while 40 per cent have reduced their working hours or given up paid employment altogether. The charity is urging the Scottish Government to increase investment in carers in the upcoming budget with a specific focus on reducing poverty and increasing access to breaks.

[Safety culture framework for health and social care \(Northern Ireland\)](#)

The Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority has published the Being Human: A Framework for Safety Culture which sets out what a good safety culture looks like within health and social care in Northern Ireland. The Framework is aligned to best-practice standards and defines three overarching domains that the RQIA believes



are necessary to drive a strong safety culture: commitment to patient safety and staff wellbeing; compassion, civility and respect; and curiosity and constructive challenge.

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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