

21 – 27 November 2025



bulletin

Adult^{and}
Health[Alcohol and Drugs](#)[Care Homes/Care at Home](#)[Covid-19](#)[End of Life/Palliative Care](#)[Older People](#)[Other Health & Social Care](#)**Alcohol and Drugs**[UK Government refuse to expand drug consumption rooms](#)

The UK Government has confirmed it will not amend the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 to allow the creation of more legal drug consumption rooms. The government explained its decision in response to the Scottish Affairs Committee, which recommended that reserved legislation be changed to create a new legal framework for facilities similar to The Thistle consumption room in Glasgow. Although the government said it does not support consumption rooms, a spokesperson said they would welcome any evidence published after The Thistle's three-year pilot.



Care Homes/Care at Home

[Social care assessment statistics released](#)

Public Health Scotland has published the latest information on people requiring a social care assessment and care at home services. The data shows a 30 per cent increase in the estimated number of people waiting on a social care assessment for a package of care since last year. The estimated number of people assessed and waiting for a care at home package was 1 per cent higher than the number of people waiting for a care at home package this time last year.

Covid-19

[UK Covid-19 Inquiry – Module 2 report published](#)

The UK Covid-19 Inquiry has published its report on the Module 2, Module 2A, Module 2B, Module 2C on core decision-making and political governance. Overall, the Inquiry found that the response of the four governments repeatedly amounted to a case of ‘too little, too late’. Ten lessons have been identified across five themes that should be considered in the development of future pandemic preparedness strategies. 19 recommendations included broadening participation in SAGE (Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies), improving the routine consideration of the impact that decisions might have on those most at risk in an emergency, reforming and clarifying the structures for decision-making during emergencies within each nation, ensuring that decisions and their implications are clearly communicated to the public, enabling greater parliamentary scrutiny of the use of emergency powers, and establishing structures to improve the communication between the four nations during an emergency. In response, the Scottish Government admitted that some choices, made in good faith at the time and under immense pressures, may not have always been the right ones

End of Life/Palliative Care

[Report urges action on end of life poverty](#)

A new report by Marie Curie and Loughborough University shows the financial hardship and fuel poverty facing thousands of people with terminal illness in Scotland. The report suggests that over 6,500 people die in end of life poverty each year and 7,700 die in fuel poverty, driven by high energy costs and the need to power essential medical equipment. The report calls for a whole-system, public health approach and outlines key recommendations, including a guarantee for working age people with terminal illness to receive an income at state pension level.



Older People

[Malnutrition rising in older people](#)

The charity Food Train has warned that malnutrition in older people is rising in Scotland, with 22 per cent of over-65s it assessed between March and September 2025 found to be at risk. Food Train is calling for political parties to prioritise food security and dignity for older people in their manifestos for next year's Scottish Parliament election, with specific asks for a national malnutrition prevention and screening programme and greater involvement of older people in food and health policy design.

Other Health and Social Care

[Winter campaign to reduce NHS pressure](#)

The Scottish Government has launched a campaign to help people go to the right health professional over the winter period. The Right Care Right Place Campaign will ensure people get the care they need while also reducing pressures on frontline health services. The campaign will run across TV, radio, press and digital platforms.

[Webinars on Care Inspectorate powers under Care Reform Act](#)

Scottish Care has highlighted two webinars, scheduled by the Scottish Government, focused on Care Inspectorate powers under the Care Reform (Scotland) Act 2025. The sessions will provide further detail on the proposed policy and when it may be applied. Members of Scottish Care and CCPS will have an opportunity to share feedback and ask questions. The events take place on 2 and 3 December.

[Report highlights gap in involving people experiencing care in wider reform](#)

The Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) has published a report examining how people experiencing social care are involved in shaping social care services. It follows a national survey in England, which found 53 per cent of people experiencing care agreed that collaboration was currently working well enough to drive meaningful change. It also found that only 28 per cent of families believed collaboration was working. SCIE notes that the UK Government is looking at social care reform and asks that innovation in designing reform must be built with the insight and experience of people who live and work in social care every day.

[UK Budget announced](#)

The UK Chancellor, Rachel Reeves, has announced an additional £820m for the Scottish Government through Barnett consequential as part of the UK Budget. This is comprised of £510m of resource funding and £310m of capital funding. This is in addition to the Spending Review 2025, which set out that Scotland's budget would rise £2.9bn a year on average. Key commitments in the Budget include an increase to the legal minimum wage for over 21s.

**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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