

31 November – 6 December 2025







Alzheimer's/Dementia

Care Homes/Care at Home

**Disability** 

**Health** 

<u>Infection Prevention and</u> <u>Control</u>

**Justice** 

Other Health & Social Care

## Alzheimer's/Dementia

Dementia over the festive period

Dementia UK is highlighting tips on addressing the challenges for people living with dementia over Christmas and the festive period. The tips focus on noticing changes during or after Christmas, family dynamics, and post-Christmas blues.



#### Care Homes/Care at Home

## Statement on Castlehill Care Home, Inverness

Some improvements have been made in the quality of care experienced by residents living in an Inverness care home. The Care Inspectorate has published a letter of compliance confirming that Castlehill Care Home has met the requirements of an Improvement Notice issued on 7 October 2025, following an earlier inspection which raised serious concerns. Further required improvements were also included in the Improvement Notice, which have also been met. The Care Inspectorate continues to work with the care provider and partners to ensure improvements are sustained and embedded. A further inspection has been carried out and a report will be published in due course.

## Disability

## Priorities for the commission for people with learning disabilities

The Scottish Commission for People with Learning Disabilities (SCLD) has published 'Rights. Equality. Inclusion', their priorities for change to address the long-standing inequalities and discrimination people with learning disabilities experience. The four key areas identified by the SCLD are human rights and law reform, independent living, health, social care and wellbeing, and inclusive design and access to mainstream services.

### Health

## NHS finance and performance

Audit Scotland has published a report on the finance and performance of the NHS in Scotland for 2025. The report covers the financial and operational performance of Scotland's NHS in 2024/25 and is intended to provide an overview of national and board performance, as well as providing a review of progress towards reform. Key messages include that even with increased funding, the NHS in Scotland is not in a financially sustainable position, and performance has not improved in line with commitments made by the Scottish Government. Recommendations by the Auditor General include for the Scottish Government to be clear and transparent on what financial support is available to NHS boards who are in a recurrent deficit position, and for NHS boards to set out in their three-year financial plans how they are going to achieve financial balance.

### Infection Prevention and Control

# Flu levels continue to rise, according to Public Health Scotland

Laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza rose from 555 to 805 in the week ending 23 November, according to new figures from Public Health Scotland. Over the week, hospital admissions also rose from 279 to 391, with all age groups now affected at levels not previously seen at this time of year.



#### **Justice**

## Report from workshop on new Domestic Homicide and Suicide Review system

A report from a test workshop on plans for a new Domestic Homicide and Suicide Review system has been published by the Scottish Government, along with its response. Facilitated by Advocacy After Fatal Domestic Abuse, Workshop One was held on 28 October and brought together experts, practitioners and academics to walk through how reviews will be established once the new statutory system is in place. Participants tested processes for notifying a death, setting terms of reference and forming case review panels, using detailed case scenarios. In its response, the Scottish Government reiterated commitment to clearer statutory guidance, a common notification form, secure data systems, family advocacy, and a structured training programme for all those involved. Further workshops and a full mock review will follow to refine the model before implementation.

## Latest MAPPA National Overview Report published

The latest National Overview Report on Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) has been published by the Scottish Government. The 2024-25 report outlines national developments across the eighteenth year of the framework's operation, as well as real world examples of collaborative working in a selection of the MAPPA regions.

## SHRC publishes report on fatal accident inquiry system

Scotland's fatal accident inquiry system is "confusing, slow, defensive and dehumanising", according to a report published by the Scottish Human Rights Commission (SHRC). The SHRC commissioned the charity INQUEST to facilitate a Family Listening Day, at which 33 bereaved relatives provided personal testimony and set out a number of recommendations to consider. The report has been submitted by the SHRC to the Fatal Accident Inquiry Review, chaired by Sheriff Principal Ian Abercrombie.

## Other Health and Social Care

## Annual Return 2025

This year's annual return will be available to service providers for completion between Tuesday 6 January and Tuesday 17 February 2026. Each year, we ask services to complete an annual return. This gives us important information that helps us plan, inform and carry out our inspections and improvement work. We share some of the information with other organisations, such as the Scottish Social Services Council and the Scottish Government, and we use it to produce several statistical publications that you can view on our website.

## First Ministerial Report on Staffing Act published by Scottish Government

The first Ministerial Report for the Health and Care (Staffing) (Scotland) Act 2019 has been published by the Scottish Government. The legislation aims to enable



better care through appropriate staffing and, according to the report, early evidence indicates that the Act "is fostering greater transparency in staffing decisions and cultivating a culture of openness and honesty". Part 3 of the report focuses on the reporting process relating to care services, with the level of detail provided by authorities in the first year varying "widely". The report also sets out detail of the Care Inspectorate's Safe Staffing Programme.

## Fund for hiring international displaced social care workers

The Scottish Government has confirmed that eligible employers can now apply for targeted support from a fund to assist with the cost of hiring international displaced social care workers who are already in the UK. The Scottish Government has invested £500,000 to help displaced adult social care workers who are already in the UK, and have found themselves without sponsored employment through no fault of their own.

### 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 <a href="Newsdirect">Newsdirect</a>, <a href="Community Care">Community Care</a>, <a href="Children & Young People Now">Children & Young People Now</a> and <a href="ISD">ISD</a></a>
<a href="Scotland">Scotland</a>.

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.