

eForum

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National Care Service

Last Thursday, the Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport made a [statement to Parliament](#), announcing that the Scottish Government will remove Part 1 of the National Care Service Bill. Part 1 of the Bill included the proposals for structural reform, including a new national care board, and local boards to oversee the provision of social care. Part 2 and Part 3 of the Bill remain, including Anne's law, and information sharing across health and social care services.

The statement also confirmed that there will be an independent, non-statutory National Care Service Advisory Board with a wide remit, to include commissioning, health and care standards, non-residential charging and eligibility criteria. More details about the progress of the National Care Service Bill from September 2024 to January 2025 are available through [SPICe](#). Consideration of the NCS Bill at stage 2 is [expected to be completed](#) by 28 March 2025.

COSLA Charging Guidance

COSLA has published [2025/26 National Guidance](#) to underpin the development of local charging policies for social care support for people at home. The Guidance is intended to assist Local Authorities and Integration Authorities to determine charges and describes best practice.

The 2025/26 Guidance notes that it should be recognised by local authorities that asking providers to collect charges directly from people being supported places an 'additional administrative burden and financial risk' on the provider. This means that consideration should be given to the impact for the social care provider collecting the charge, and on the care and support relationship. The guidance states that an arrangement for the provider to collect charges on behalf of the local authority should only be made with the agreement of the individual, and local authorities must carry out an effective risk assessment.

The Unit will include further updates about charging for non-residential social care in future e-forums. Thank you to those who got in touch providing case studies around the collection of charges at the end of last year.

Supported Housing Review 2023

Commissioned by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and the Department for Work and Pensions, [the Supported Housing Review 2023](#) was published in November 2024, providing a snapshot of supported housing supply, demand, funding and commissioning across Great Britain. While the Review has been completed in the context of increased scrutiny of specified accommodation, the research offers insight into the future demand and supply of **all** supported housing in Scotland.

Last week the Unit hosted a meeting of providers with Professor Christina Beatty from Sheffield Hallam University's Centre for Regional Economic and Social Research to discuss the findings of the research and implications for more supported housing in Scotland.

The executive summary of the research is [available here](#), with a summary of the research on the [HSEU website](#).

SSSC Workforce Wellbeing Survey

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has commissioned the first **Have Your Say Workforce Wellbeing Survey** to find out more about the Scottish workforce's experiences. It covers topics like pay and conditions, access to qualifications and training, wellbeing and experiences of working in the sector.

Everyone working in, or who has worked in, a social service role, whether SSSC registered or not, is invited to share their views in the survey.

Find out more and take the survey here

[\[https://research.progressivepartnership.co.uk/s/uxc97z?Link=3\]](https://research.progressivepartnership.co.uk/s/uxc97z?Link=3). It closes at 5pm on Friday 14 February.

PVG Scheme

The Scottish Government announced earlier this week that they will not go ahead with plans to replace the Protecting Vulnerable Group (PVG) scheme. This included confirmation that fees for the new Level 1 and Level 2 disclosure products will remain at their broadly equivalent levels in 2025. More information is available on the [Disclosure Scotland website](#).

Digital Health and Care Leadership Programme Open for Applications

Applications for cohort 26 of the Digital Health and Care Leadership Programme are open to all health and social care settings in Scotland, including health, social care, social work, housing, charities and the third sector. The programme is designed for anyone who would like to develop their leadership skills and is interested in digital health and care. It includes a series of interactive learning sessions and peer support groups to allow participants to progress a digital project within their organisation. The deadline for applications is Monday 3 March 2025. [More information is available here.](#)

Update on SSSC registration fees

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has published an update on its recent consultation on proposals to increase registration fees. The SSSC is now analysing responses and registrants will be informed if fees are increasing and by how much in March 2025. Any increase is likely to start from 1 April.

New publication: Counting What Matters: How to classify, account and track spending for prevention

A [new publication from Demos](#) explores the challenge of measurement and makes the case for a fundamental shift in the purpose of government away from firefighting in public services towards preventing problems arriving. The paper explores the challenge of measurement and makes a series of recommendations, including the passage of a 'Public Investment Act' to show how this could be appropriately achieved.