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### **Covid-19 – General**

#### [Societal impact of pandemic focus of roundtable sessions](#)

The UK Covid-19 Inquiry will be hosting multiple roundtable sessions to inform its tenth and final investigation, 'Impact on Society'. The nine themed roundtables will involve representatives from the justice sector, the business sector, religious groups, trade unions, cultural institutions and others. The events will be held during the next six months as the inquiry explores the impact of Covid-19 on the population of the UK.

### **Alcohol and Drugs**

#### [Evaluation survey of ADPs on National Drug Deaths Mission](#)

Public Health Scotland has shared findings from an anonymous survey of Alcohol and Drug Partnership (ADP) coordinators, undertaken as part of the evaluation of the National Drug Deaths Mission. The findings cover ADP interaction at national level, local partnership dynamics, ADP coordinator wellbeing and the perceived impact of the National Mission to date.



## Care Homes/Care at Home

### [Meaningful Connections consultation with family carers](#)

The Care Inspectorate has published the findings of a consultation with family carers of people who live in care homes as part of their Meaningful Connection project. The report highlights the experiences of respondents who were able to spend significant time with a relative or friend experiencing care, with most survey respondents feeling welcome in the care home and able to visit freely. However, some respondents described difficulties accessing the home and reported restrictions around certain times of day.

## Equalities

### [More protections needed on age discrimination, MPs report](#)

A UK Parliamentary Committee has called for a new strategy and legal protections to protect older people from ageism, suggesting the current age discrimination law and Public Sector Equality Duty are insufficient. The Women and Equalities Committee highlighted the success of the Commissioner for Older People in Wales and called on the UK Government to fund the Equalities and Human Rights Commission to review the effectiveness of existing protections.

## Justice

### [Prisoners' pandemic experiences published](#)

The experiences of prisoners during the Covid-19 pandemic are to be shared by the Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry's Let's Be Heard project. The case study reflects the observations of 74 prisoners in Scotland who spoke to the project about their experiences of mental health, prisoner and staff relations, visits, access to healthcare and the impact of other restrictions.

## Older People

### [Early research highlights effectiveness of RSV vaccine in reducing hospitalisation](#)

Public Health Scotland has published research on the early impact of the respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccine on those aged 75 to 79 years old. The findings show age groups eligible for the vaccine had a significantly reduced rate of hospitalisation compared to those who were not eligible. The RSV vaccination programme was launched in Scotland in August 2024 for this age group, and by the end of November 2024 uptake of the vaccine reached 68 per cent.



## Workforce

### [SSSC publishes slides on new CPL and RTP requirements](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has made slides available on how staff should meet new continuous professional learning (CPL) and return to practice (RTP) registration requirements. The slides were used at recent online events to support employers to understand the new requirements, which came into effect in June 2024.

### [Guide to employing 16 and 17-year-olds in social care](#)

A new guide to support and encourage the employment of 16 and 17-year-olds in the social care sector has been published by the Scottish Social Services Council in partnership with the Care Inspectorate, Scottish Care, the Coalition of Care Providers Scotland and Skills Development Scotland. The resource provides employers with practical advice and good practice for recruiting, onboarding and supporting young people in the workplace. It addresses key considerations such as legal requirements, safeguarding, training, and mentorship, ensuring a safe and positive experience for both the young employees and the individuals they care for.

## Other Health and Social Care

### [Major changes to National Care Service legislation](#)

The Scottish Government has announced the changes it plans to make to the National Care Service (Scotland) Bill when the Scottish Parliament considers the legislation at Stage 2 next week. The Health, Social Care and Sport Committee has published amendments which, if agreed, would change the Bill's name to the Care Reform (Scotland) Bill to reflect the removal of Part 1 of the Bill. Other changes include enshrining Anne's Law into the Bill with more detail about how it will work in practice, and plans for the National Social Work Agency to become an executive agency.

### [New online resource to support strategic planning launched](#)

An online resource to support strategic planning in health and social care has been launched by Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS). The resource, which sits within the Scottish Approach to Change work, provides insight, support, tools, and worked examples for strategic planning teams across NHS boards and health and social care partnerships. It is split into three sections: Strategic Planning Role; Strategic Planning Thinking; Resource Directory.

### [Supporting people living at home with neurological conditions](#)

A report has been published on a Care Inspectorate and NHS Ayrshire and Arran project to support people living at home with neurological conditions. The aims of the project were to prototype a care network to create structured opportunities for multiple agencies and those accessing care at home services to learn from each



other. This network would also work to develop a shared understanding of people's needs and contribute to improvements in their care and support.

### **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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