

1 – August 2020



bulletin



Adult and Health

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The Drug Deaths Taskforce has announced funding from the Scottish Government for research and front-line services to help reduce harm and the number of drug-related deaths in Scotland. Around £1m has been allocated to 10 research projects investigating different approaches to tackling the public health crisis, while £3m will be invested in Alcohol and Drugs Partnerships to deliver on the Taskforce's six strategies to reduce drug deaths. A new strategy to address the problem of stigma has also been announced by the Taskforce alongside a new website on its work.

Alzheimer's/Dementia[Alzheimer Scotland services begin to restart](#)

The Chief Executive of Alzheimer Scotland has issued an update on the reopening of some of the charity's services. Henry Simmons has explained that registered day services will begin to reopen in the next few weeks, but with smaller numbers. Outdoor activities with a small number of participants, such as gardening and allotment groups, could take place using public health guidance and Alzheimer Scotland has asked its local teams to start planning for this.



[Public attitudes to dementia research explored in survey](#)

The Scottish Dementia Informatics Partnership will present the findings of a recent research survey at an event on 13 August. Researchers from the Edinburgh Centre for Dementia Prevention carried out a survey on national attitudes to dementia research and will present findings at an online event and discussion.

COVID-19

[Restrictions introduced in Aberdeen following outbreak](#)

The First Minister has announced local restrictions in Aberdeen following confirmation of a number of new COVID-19 cases in the area. From 5pm on Wednesday 5 August, bars, restaurants, cafes and pubs were required by law to close. People in Aberdeen City are asked not to meet other households indoors or travel more than five miles for leisure or recreational purposes. People can continue to travel for work, or education purposes. Visiting in hospitals and care homes will return to essential visits only.

[Updated guidance on contact tracing in complex settings](#)

Health Protection Scotland has published the latest guidance on the identification of contacts of confirmed cases of COVID-19 when either the case and/or the contact is linked to a complex setting, such as care settings. The document is for use by all staff involved in tracing and managing contacts of cases in complex settings, including care homes, early learning and childcare services and day care centres for older or vulnerable people. Tracing and managing is undertaken by NHS board health protection teams who will receive information from local contact tracing staff when a complex setting is identified during initial follow-up with the case.

[Next steps in reopening respite and day care services set out](#)

The Scottish Government has issued a letter on the re-establishment of respite and day care services, setting out next steps in the wider reopening of adult day centres and residential respite for both children and adults. The letter confirms that respite support at home, outdoor activities and children's day care can all continue in line with existing infection control guidance. Comprehensive guidance on adult day care services and residential respite will be published in late August. In the interim, all registered adult day centre and residential respite services that wish to reopen can do so subject to agreement of their approach by the local Health Protection teams and the Care Inspectorate.

[Scottish Care survey on the sector's profile launched](#)

A new survey on the impact of COVID-19 on the profile of social care services has been launched by Scottish Care for staff, residents and families. The survey is focused on perceptions of the independent social care sector during the pandemic, relationships with the media, opportunities for enhancing understanding, awareness and profile and the future potential of the sector in relation to its profile. It is the sixth and final survey in the [Care Future](#) series.



NRS and Care Inspectorate publish latest COVID-19 data

The [latest statistics](#) from National Records of Scotland on coronavirus deaths have been published. Between 27 July and 2 August, seven deaths were registered that mentioned COVID-19 on the death certificate, representing a decrease of one from last week. Of the 4,208 deaths involving COVID-19 registered to date, 46% are related to deaths in care homes, 46% of deaths were in hospitals and 7% of deaths were at home or non-institutional settings.

The Care Inspectorate has also laid before the Scottish Parliament a [report of inspections](#) carried out in care services in the past two weeks. This is in accordance with Paragraph 22 in Part 9 of Schedule 1 to the Coronavirus (Scotland) (No.2) Act 2020. To meet the duties imposed by the Act and to comply with associated guidance, the Care Inspectorate must focus and report on infection prevention and control, PPE and staffing. The Care Inspectorate has amended its quality framework for care homes to support this process.

[Research to look at experience of social care workers](#)

A rapid research project seeking an insight into the experience of social care workers during the COVID-19 pandemic has been launched in partnership by the University of the West of Scotland and Oxfam. Researchers will confidentially interview care home and care at home workers “to understand recent experiences, the positive and new challenges, and explore what the scope is for future progress in job quality”.

Care Homes/Care at Home

[NHS Pharmacy First Scotland available in care homes](#)

A new pharmacy service which offers consultations and advice for minor illnesses has been launched in all community pharmacies and will be available to people living in care homes. NHS Pharmacy First Scotland is available from all pharmacies that dispense NHS prescriptions and pharmacists are able to give advice and treatment for minor health concerns including cough, headache and pain. A guidance sheet is available which encourages care homes to speak with local community pharmacy teams to agree on how they will work together as part of the scheme.

[Ashwood House care home, Callander](#)

A spokesperson for the Care Inspectorate said: “The Care Inspectorate visited Ashwood House care home in Callander on 30 July to check on progress made after an earlier inspection raised concerns about the quality of care experienced by residents. On our latest visit we found minimal progress on areas that must improve and we continue to have significant concerns about the wellbeing of residents. Our first priority is always the health, safety and wellbeing of residents and because of our continued concerns we have decided to cancel the service's registration under Section 64(1) of the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act, 2010. We understand this is a difficult and distressing time for residents, their loved ones and staff at the home. We are working closely with partners including the local health and social care partnership to ensure that residents experience appropriate care.”



[Virtual Homecare Festival: 7 – 9 October](#)

Scottish Care's Homecare Festival will take place virtually from 7 to 9 October this year. A series of online sessions will take place over the three days before an awards evening to celebrate the sector and its workforce. The [deadline](#) for nominations for the Care at Home & Housing Support Awards is 31 August.

[Care Tech 3: 28 August](#)

Scottish Care has announced that its third technology event will take place on 28 August. The virtual event will bring together a range of perspectives to discuss developments and impacts of technology, particularly during COVID19, and the future potential of technology across the Scottish social care sector.

[90-minute test for care homes in England \(England\)](#)

A new test can detect COVID-19 and flu, delivering test results within 90 minutes, the BBC reports. The test, which uses a saliva swab, is to be rolled out in care homes in England from next week.

Infection Prevention and Control

[Flu vaccine eligibility to be expanded](#)

Eligibility for the free winter flu vaccination will be expanded this year, the Public Health Minister Joe FitzPatrick has confirmed. Responding to a parliamentary question from Conservative MSP Miles Briggs, Mr FitzPatrick said the Scottish Government is "considering carefully the impact of COVID-19" and "will soon set out how we will expand free eligibility for the 2020-2021 seasonal flu vaccine".

[New vaccination guidance from RCN](#)

The RCN has published new guidance for staff involved in the delivery of essential vaccination services. In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the guidance addresses questions about developing, planning and delivering large-scale vaccination programmes. The guidance contains recommendations and clinical considerations, including recording, sharing and regularly reviewing risk assessments, and making services accessible to everyone.

Mental Health

[Collection of Iriss resources on COVID-19 issues](#)

Iriss has made five collections of resources available as part of its Curate and Connect series. The series brings together collections of Iriss resources based on topics related to the COVID-19 crisis, including trauma, social isolation, leadership and homelessness. The latest collection on trauma includes a webinar on trauma as a result of the pandemic and opportunities created by "post-pandemic growth".



Older People

[Concerns over lockdown impact on older people's physical wellbeing](#)

Age Scotland's Chief Executive spoke on BBC Radio Scotland last week about the longer-term impact of lockdown on the health and wellbeing of older people. He raised concerns about the "abrupt end" of exercise classes, walking sports and outdoor activities, particularly in the context of a potential of a second wave of coronavirus. The BBC Radio Scotland programme was focused on warnings from health professionals that a "deconditioning pandemic" could leave older people more vulnerable to a second wave.

Other Health and Social Care

[Funding announced for social care](#)

The Scottish Government has confirmed that additional funding of £50 million will help the social care sector meet additional costs related to the pandemic. Health Secretary Jeane Freeman announced that the funding would be allocated to Integration Joint Boards following an agreement with COSLA.

[Awareness of fire risk of emollient skin creams](#)

The Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has teamed up with Fire and Rescue Services to highlight the fire risk of some skin creams when dried on to fabric. Emollient skin creams can easily transfer from skin to clothing and bedding and when fabric with dried-on cream comes into contact with a naked flame, the resulting fire burns quickly and intensely.

[Continuous professional learning requirement to replace PRTL](#)


Plans to replace post registration training and learning with a new continuous professional learning requirement have been announced by the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC). It follows two years of consultation and work with employers and registrants on a new continuous learning experience. The SSSC said it would introduce the new requirement at the end of October and will hold online familiarisation sessions for employers and registrants in the autumn.

[Delayed discharge data for June published](#)

Public Health Scotland has published the latest delayed discharge figures for June 2020. The average number of beds occupied per day due to delayed discharges was 791. This is an increase of 15% compared to May 2020 when the daily average was 685, but is substantially lower than the monthly average prior to COVID-19.

[MPs to investigate health and social workforce burnout \(England\)](#)

A new committee inquiry will examine workforce burnout across the NHS and social care during the pandemic. MPs on the Health and Social Care Committee will consider the impact of increased pressures brought by COVID-19 and the resilience



of services to cope with high levels of staff stress. The inquiry will focus on the UK Government's workforce planning for the NHS as set out in the NHS People Plan. The absence of an equivalent workforce plan for social care and how parity with the NHS could be achieved will also be considered.

Other

[Douglas Ross appointed Scottish Conservative leader](#)

Douglas Ross has been confirmed as the new leader of the Scottish Conservatives after Jackson Carlaw stepped down last week. The MP for Moray hopes to win a seat at the Scottish Parliament in the 2021 election, and until then former leader Ruth Davidson will stand in at First Minister's Questions.

Disclaimer

This weekly bulletin is produced as an update on the key issues concerning adults and health.

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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