5 – 11 September 2020

bulletin

Adult and Health

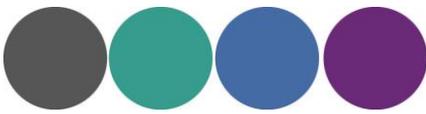**COVID-19 – General**

Tracing app launches

The Protect Scotland app has been launched by the Scottish Government to assist in contact tracing. The app focuses on proximity tracing, using Bluetooth technology to anonymously alert users if they have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. Users of the app who test positive will still get a call from a contact tracer to confirm their details and who they have been in close contact with.

Route map update

The Scottish Government has set out their three-weekly update on the route map, confirming that Scotland will stay in Phase 3, and limiting the number of people who can meet socially to a maximum of six people who come from no more than two households. Face coverings will be mandated for customers and staff in indoor hospitality.

New rules on social contact (England)

The UK Government has announced new rules on social contact, including the 'rule of six' that nobody should meet socially in groups of more than six in any setting – indoors or outdoors, at home or in a pub. This rule replaces both the existing ban on gatherings of more than 30 and the current guidance on allowing two households to meet indoors.

[Weekly statistics for COVID-19](#)

Public Health Scotland has published the weekly COVID-19 statistical report, showing that as at 6 September 2020, there have been 21,543 confirmed COVID-19 cases, equating to 394 confirmed cases per 100,000 population.

[Updated guidance on looking after people who lack mental capacity (England)](#)

The UK Government's Department of Health and Social Care has updated their guidance, 'Coronavirus (COVID-19): looking after people who lack mental capacity', to include updated information about professional visits to care homes and hospitals.

Alcohol/Drugs

[Response to report on problem drug use in Scotland](#)

The UK Government has published their response to the UK Parliament's Scottish Affairs Committee report into problem drug use in Scotland. Many of the recommendations in the earlier report have not been accepted by the UK Government, including rejections of declaring a public health emergency, reformation of the Misuse of Drugs Act, and the use of drug consumption rooms.

Care Homes/Care at Home

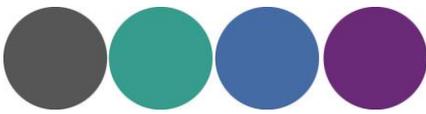[Scottish Care comments on COVID-19 testing in care homes](#)

Scottish Care has issued a statement on COVID-19 testing in care homes, referencing a reported disruption and delay of the weekly staff testing regime that is required of care homes. Expressing their concern at the issues, Scottish Care calls for the testing of staff to be taken over directly by the Scottish Government.

[Additional data on adult care homes and COVID-19](#)

The Scottish Government has published the weekly data on COVID-19 in adult care homes in Scotland, covering testing for COVID-19 in adult care homes and deaths reported by adult care homes to the Care Inspectorate.

[Legal challenge on care home visits (England)](#)

Families of care home residents within the dementia campaign group 'John's Campaign' are reportedly seeking a judicial review of the UK Government's coronavirus guidance issued in July for care homes in England, carehome.co.uk reports. They want the guidance changed so indoor visits are allowed as well as more than one visitor. John's Campaign also wants the families of people with dementia to be seen as 'key workers' so they are given the same access to visit family members as care staff.

Learning Disabilities

[Annual review for SCLD](#)

The Scottish Commission for Learning Disability (SCLD) has published their Annual Review for 2019-20, looking at their highlights for the year and progress made to improve the lives of people with learning/intellectual disabilities in Scotland.

Mental Health

[Updated MWC advice note](#)

The Mental Welfare Commission (MWC) has updated their COVID-10 advice note to version 15, including updated information on visitors to and from care homes and guidance on medication use for acute behaviour disturbance.

Older People

[Tips to look out for friends, relatives and neighbours](#)

Age Scotland has highlighted tips for everyone to look out for their friends, relatives and neighbours, focusing on your own wellbeing and those around you.

Other Health and Social Care

[Joint inspection report for West Lothian](#)
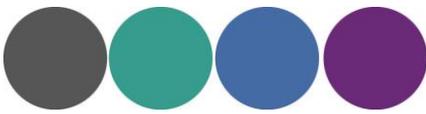
The Care Inspectorate and Healthcare Improvement Scotland have published a joint inspection report on the effective of strategic planning in West Lothian Health and Social Care Partnership. The report finds that the Partnership has made "limited progress towards integration since 2016", but was able to demonstrate positive performance results, has clear and consistent plans for the development of services, and there is a clear commitment from key senior officers to make more progress in integration health and social care services.

[Evaluation of first year of duty of candour](#)

The Scottish Government has published a report evaluating the first year of the implementation of the organisational duty of candour procedure. The report uses annual reports by NHS health boards and special boards to make observations on the implementation and future of the duty of candour procedure.

[Technology and digital in social care](#)

During their event 'Care Tech 3', Scottish Care has launched 'A Vision for Technology and Digital in Social Care', aiming to inspire dialogue in the sector and collaboration with wider partners to realise the potential of technology and digital in social care.

[Social care's digital transformation (England)](#)

Care England has reported on its webinar on the power of social's care digital transformation and how the response to COVID-19 in terms of deploying digital technologies could be sustained and embedded beyond the pandemic.

Other

[Blueprint for local government](#)

COSLA has published a 'Blueprint for Scottish Local Government', setting out their vision for the future of local government around six themes of Strengthening Local Democracy, Funding Services and Communities, Wellbeing – including Health and Social Care, Education and Children and Young People, Economy and the Environment, and Supporting Vulnerable Communities.

[Working together whilst apart](#)

The Institute for Research and Innovation in Social Services (Iriss) has a new course on working together as a mixed group of decision makers, staff members, and people with lived experience, when it is not practical for you to all be in the same room. It will help you create a practical project plan and use tools that help connect people across distance. This could include working with an international group, in a rural setting, or with people who may find it easier to contribute from home.