




Adult and Health



[Alcohol and Drugs](#)

[Alzheimer's/Dementia](#)

[Care Homes/Care at Home](#)

[COVID-19](#)

[Mental Health](#)

[Other Health & Social Care](#)

[Other](#)

Alzheimer's/Dementia

[Project to improve dementia care during COVID-19](#)

Carehome.co.uk reports on a new programme, funded by the UK Government, to improve and personalise care for people with dementia in care homes in England and Wales. The project will offer online training and support to care staff and aims to address challenges such as residents being unable to see their families and staff wearing full PPE.

Care Homes/Care at Home

[Updated guidance on COVID-19 testing in care homes](#)

Health Protection Scotland has published updated guidance on COVID-19 PCR testing in care homes and the management of COVID-19 PCR test positive residents and staff. The guidance has been produced to assist NHS Board Health Protection teams and care home providers to manage COVID-19 PCR test positive residents and staff, especially asymptomatic test positive staff. It has been published provided as an addition to previous HPS guidance issued regarding pre-admission testing for new (or returning) care home residents. Staff who have previously tested positive should be exempt from being retested within a period of 90 days from their initial illness onset. Health Protection Scotland has also published [updated information and guidance](#) for care home settings, incorporating the updated testing guidance.



[Lothian care home outbreaks raised in Parliament](#)

An urgent question was raised in the Scottish Parliament regarding action taken regarding the COVID-19 outbreak at the Redmill and Milford House care homes in Lothian. In response to the question from Neil Findlay (Labour), the Health Secretary Jeane Freeman said neither care home had experienced a previous outbreak or been flagged as amber or red by the Care Inspectorate or the local director of public health. Ms Freeman said neither the Care Inspectorate or Scottish Care had provided the same information as shared by Neil Findlay, though she had spoken to both of them and knew they had been in contact with HC1.

[Weekly data on adult care homes](#)

The latest weekly data on COVID-19 in adult care homes has been published by the Scottish Government, incorporating data on deaths reported to the Care Inspectorate.

[Report on care homes during pandemic \(England\)](#)

Amnesty International has published a report on the actions taken to protect people in care homes in England during the pandemic. It criticises the UK Government for “failing to take measures to promptly and adequately protect care homes”. A number of issues are raised, including discharge from hospital, lack of PPE and testing, and temporary suspension of regular oversight procedures by the Care Quality Commission. Amnesty International has called for a full independent public inquiry.

COVID-19

[Bars and restaurants in central Scotland to close for two weeks](#)

The First Minister announced new restrictions in Scotland as the number of positive COVID-19 cases continues to rise. The BBC reported on new rules which apply to the hospitality sector, with licenced premises in the central belt to be closed until 25 October and pubs, bars, restaurants and cafes in the rest of Scotland will not be allowed to serve alcohol indoors. Other changes have been made to contact sports and training, indoor activities and people are being asked to avoid public transport unless it is for work or school.

[Social care during COVID-19 monitoring report published](#)

The Scottish Human Rights Commission has published an Impact Monitoring Report on COVID-19, social care and human rights. It follows research into the impact of the pandemic, and how it has been managed, on people’s rights in the context of care at home and support in the community. The report raises a number of concerns about the social care support available to people following the pandemic and makes 24 recommendations to address the issues highlighted in the research.

Recommendations include:

- The Scottish Government and COSLA should jointly commit to recommencing care and support at pre-pandemic levels, as a minimum.

- 
- The Scottish Government and COSLA should develop an emergency decision making framework for social care which is grounded in rights-based principles of inclusion and participation in decision making, and transparency.
 - The Scottish Government should immediately establish data collection mechanisms to monitor the nature and extent of reductions and withdrawals of care and support.
 - An integrated programme of reform must take place, explicitly grounded in human rights standards, which makes changes at legislative, budgetary, policy and implementation levels.

[Update on use of coronavirus legislation](#)

The Scottish Government has published the third report on the Coronavirus Acts to the Scottish Parliament.

[New guideline for Long Covid under development](#)

NICE and the Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network have announced they will work together with the Royal College of General Practitioners to develop a guideline on persistent effects of COVID-19 on patients, commonly described as Long Covid. The guideline will address a formal definition of the disease, how to identify ongoing symptoms and best practice investigation/treatment options.

[Weekly COVID-19 statistics](#)

Public Health Scotland has released the weekly COVID-19 statistical report, showing that in the week ending 4 October, there were 173 admissions to hospital with confirmed COVID-19 and 15 patients were treated in intensive care.

[CMA secures payout for Care UK residents](#)

The Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) has confirmed that it has secured more than £1 million in refunds for NHS-funded residents at Care UK premium homes, who paid additional fees towards essential care which were ruled unfair by the authority. The CMA considers that Care UK broke consumer protection law by charging this additional fee because it contravenes NHS rules. Care UK has since signed a formal undertaking to stop charging the additional fee for residents at its homes.

[Letter to care homes ahead of winter](#)

Care Inspectorate Chief Executive, Peter Macleod, has written to care home providers about winter planning and COVID-19. In the letter, he shares the concerns of the Care Inspectorate found during recent inspections of care homes and highlights the importance of planning and preparing for the winter months. Common themes of concern raised in inspections include: infection prevention and control practice and learning; use of PPE and disposal of waste; supporting people with physical distancing; supporting wellbeing and staying in touch; laundry management; and domestic cleaning staff/products.



Mental Health

[Mental health support for COVID-19 patients](#)

A new national peer support network will be established for people who have been hospitalised with coronavirus. The Scottish Government made the announcement after a report showed up to one third of patients developed serious mental health consequences, including depression, anxiety, PTSD and cognitive problems. The report, published by Dr Nadine Cossette, made a number of other recommendations including a network of mental health clinicians across Scotland and a personalised digital platform. The Scottish Government has confirmed it will take the findings forward in consultation with health boards.

[COVID-19 mental health transition and recovery plan published](#)

A transition and recovery plan for mental health in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic has been published by the Scottish Government. The plan lays out key areas of mental health need that have arisen as a result of COVID-19 and lockdown, and the actions that the Scottish Government will take to respond to that need.

Other Health and Social Care

[Near Me in social services](#)

Iriss is working with the Scottish Government's Near Me team to develop a new project exploring where Near Me video consulting software can be most effectively and usefully applied in social services. Iriss is currently gathering a broad range of experience and learning from those who have used Near Me to support the development of national training and guidance for the technology. They will work with 4-6 organisations to trial the use of Near Me in their practice through a 4-week Quality Improvement (QI) cycle. Iriss will be leading this work over autumn and winter 2020, with completion early 2021.

[Care Inspectorate publishes annual whistleblowing disclosures report](#)

The Care Inspectorate has published its Whistleblowing Disclosures Report 2019/20. The Prescribed Persons (Reports on Disclosures of Information) Regulations 2017 require us to report annually on a range of factors relating to workers' disclosures. In 2019/20 we received 1,377 whistleblowing complaints from workers in registered social care services, relating to alleged failures to comply with legal obligations, or allegations that the health and safety of an individual or individuals had been or was likely to be, endangered. Of these, 90 (7%) were resolved by direct service action without the need for a formal investigation, we logged 465 as intelligence (34%), 250 (18%) were passed directly to providers to investigate, and 330 (24%) were revoked.

[Alison Bavidge appointed SASW National Director](#)

Alison Bavidge has been appointed new National Director for Scotland of the Scottish Association of Social Workers (SASW). Ms Bavidge, formerly of the Care



Inspectorate, has written a blog introducing herself in her new role.

Other

[Timetable announced for CPL](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council has published the timetable for the new continuous professional learning requirement which comes in at the end of October. On 30 October, the new CPL requirement will be launched and guidance will be available for registered workers and employers. The MyLearning app will be launched in November.

[Ending Homelessness action plan updated to reflect COVID-19 impact](#)

The Scottish Government's Ending Homelessness Together action plan has been updated. The updated plan includes existing plans for tackling homelessness alongside new recommendations from the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action Group, which reconvened in June, on the actions needed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Measures in the plan include the replacement of night shelters with rapid rehousing welcome centres for people who would otherwise be sleeping rough this winter.

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.

It should also be noted that the Care Inspectorate has no liability in respect of the content of external websites which may be signposted on this site.