

13 – 19 February 2021



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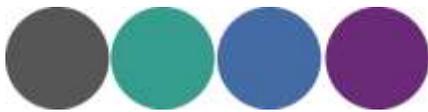
COVID-19 - General

[FM gives lockdown update](#)

Nicola Sturgeon gave an update to parliament on lockdown restrictions and set out a timescale for the resumption of full-time schooling. The First Minister confirmed pupils in P1-3, as well as children in early learning settings, will return to school on Monday 22 February. Limited numbers of S4-S6 pupils who are required to complete practical work to achieve an SQA certificate will also return from next Monday. A further update on the return of schools is expected on Tuesday 2 March. The 'stay at home' requirement will remain in place for now but the Government hopes to publish a revised strategic framework next week, setting out how Scotland can exit lockdown and what conditions will need to be met before restrictions are eased.

[Audit Scotland report on pandemic response](#)

Audit Scotland has published a report on the COVID-19 pandemic and the response within the NHS and Scottish Government. The report includes a section setting out some issues that emerged across social care, though it is noted that further work on social care sustainability is forthcoming. Recommendations for the Scottish Government include updating national pandemic guidance for health and social care as a priority, and working with partners to update the integrated workforce plan.



[Survey on impact of pandemic on health and social care staff](#)

The ALLIANCE has highlighted an online survey on the impact of COVID-19 on health and social care workers in Scotland. Led by the University of Strathclyde, the study aims to investigate how COVID-19 has influenced: mental wellbeing, teamwork, emotions and opinions of health and social care staff.

[Latest COVID-19 statistics published by Public Health Scotland](#)

Public Health Scotland (PHS) has released its weekly COVID-19 statistical report. By Sunday 14 February, 1,255,190 individuals had received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccination. In the same period there had been 192,375 confirmed cases, with 5,046 in the latest week. In the week ending 14 February, there were 560 admissions to hospital with confirmed COVID-19 and 87 new patients were treated in intensive care. 338 people aged 5-17 tested positive.

[Care Inspectorate report to Scottish Parliament on inspections](#)

The Care Inspectorate has laid before the Scottish Parliament a report of inspections it has carried out in care services in the past two weeks. This report covers inspections we have completed since those detailed in our previous report to Parliament on 3 February 2021.

[COVID-19 citizens' panel report published](#)

The Scottish Parliament's COVID-19 Committee has published the report from the COVID-19 Citizens' Panel. The panel met over four weekends to consider what priorities should shape the Scottish Government's approach to COVID-19 restrictions and strategy in 2021. The panel also heard presentations from experts to help inform their recommendations. The panel suggests that the government pursue an elimination strategy or a maximum suppression strategy, with a strengthened Test and Protect to keep numbers low.

Adult Support and Protection

[National Adult Support and Protection Day backed by Mental Welfare Commission](#)

National Adult Support and Protection Day has been highlighted by the Mental Welfare Commission. The event takes place on Saturday 20 February and urges people to report their concerns if they believe a vulnerable individual is at risk.

Alcohol and Drugs

[Scottish Government responds to recommendations on drug and alcohol services](#)

The Scottish Government has published its response to the Residential Rehabilitation Working Group's recommendations on drug and alcohol residential treatment services. The Residential Rehabilitation Working Group recommendations set out immediate work required on improving access to treatment and use of existing capacity. The Scottish Government's response goes through the



recommendations, setting out a position and progress in relation to each. [A survey](#) commissioned to follow up on the report suggests there are 418 beds available for the treatment of both drug and alcohol addiction.

[New support funds for drugs services open](#)

The Scottish Government has announced that two funds for drugs services will open this week to support grassroots, community and residential organisations. The funding will be administered by the Corra Foundation and is part of a £5 million support package announced by the First Minister to ensure immediate action on addressing drug deaths in Scotland.

Care Homes/Care at Home

[Rights Made Real in Care Homes report published](#)

Scottish Care, Life Changes Trust and My Home Life have launched a report on the Rights Made Real in Care Homes project. The initiative was established in 2019 and supports seven projects across Scotland to promote the inclusion and participation of care home residents with dementia in a meaningful way. The report brings together stories from across the project sites with the aim of informing and supporting rights-based practice in all care home support.

Justice

[Analysis of views on widening the scope of the victim statement scheme](#)

Analysis of views on widening the scope of the current victim statement scheme has been published by the Scottish Government. A consultation sought views on the current victim statement scheme and on proposed changes relating to extending eligibility to make a victim statement and other ways the scheme could be improved. According to the analysis, a clear majority felt the scheme should be expanded to enable as many victims as possible to make a victim statement.

Older People

[Call for network of older people's champions](#)

Age Scotland and the Scottish Older People's Assembly are calling on every local authority to appoint an Older People's Champion to amplify older voices. Nine councils have already appointed a councillor to the apolitical role and the campaign aims to build a network of champions to represent older people's views and identify issues that affect older people locally.

Other Health and Social Care

[Scottish Government accepts Adult Social Care Review recommendations](#)

Health Secretary Jeane Freeman has accepted the recommendations of the Independent Review of Adult Social Care. During a debate in the Scottish Parliament



on 17 February Ms Freeman said her party would be asking people to back a National Care Service at the election in May but suggested immediate action was important, noting meetings with COSLA regarding local accountability concerns, a [new £20m community living fund](#), and ongoing action regarding fair work. The Scottish Government's motion for debate was agreed, with all opposition amendments rejected by MSPs.

- [CCPS](#) and [Scottish Care](#) published briefing notes on the Independent Review of Adult Social Care ahead of the debate.

[Webinar with Scottish Care and Derek Feeley](#)

The Chair of the Independent Review of Adult Social Care will take part in a webinar with Scottish Care on 1 March. Derek Feeley will present findings from the report and members will be able to ask questions about the review.

[Committee report on future of primary care](#)

The Scottish Parliament's Health and Sport Committee published its phase two report on what primary care should look like for the next generation. The report concludes that a radical revision of the traditional model is required to better meet people's needs. The report questions the Scottish Government's commitment to recruit at least 800 more GPs by 2030 and suggests broader staff recruitment, greater technological developments, and improved data sharing would be more appropriate investment in tackling obesity and health inequalities.

[New legal duty on public bodies recommended in homelessness prevention report](#)

A recommendation that a duty be placed on public bodies to identify people at risk of homelessness early on is part of a report on preventing homelessness. The Homelessness Prevention Review Group report, led by Crisis at the request of the Scottish Government, notes the work of a range of services, including health and social care, and recommends they ask about people's housing situations at an early stage and act in partnership where a problem is identified. A set of proposals is also put forward intended to reform homelessness legislation, ensure prevention work commences six months before an individual becomes homeless and strengthen protections to ensure the accommodation secured is settled and suitable.

**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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