

20 – 26 February 2021



bulletin


 Adult
 and
 Health

[COVID-19 - General](#)
[Alzheimer's/Dementia](#)
[Care Homes/Care at Home](#)
[Justice](#)
[Other Health & Social Care](#)
[Other](#)
COVID-19 - General
[First Minister announces initial plans to lift restrictions](#)

The Scottish Government has updated COVID-19 Strategic Framework to set out early priorities for gradually easing measures when conditions allow. Conditions for easing, rather than fixed dates, have been provided to reflect the ongoing uncertainties of the crisis. The First Minister confirmed that Scotland will remain in Level 4 but some gradual easings will be allowed when data indicates it is safe to proceed. These include, following a review on 15 March, the second phase of school reopening and the easing of some socialising rules, to allow outdoor meetings of four people from two households. Further reviews are expected to take place every three weeks, with plans to remove the stay at home requirement around 5 April. Scotland will return to geographically variable levels at the end of April.

[Priority group 6 receive vaccine appointments](#)

The vaccine programme entered the next phase this week as the Scottish Government confirmed people in priority group 6 are beginning to receive vaccinations. The first to be invited will be people who have conditions which are included on both the JCVI priority list and the flu vaccine list. They will be invited at the same time as unpaid carers who receive carers' benefits or who have been identified by GPs.



[Vaccine linked to reduced COVID-19 hospital admissions](#)

Public Health Scotland has highlighted research showing vaccination is linked to a substantial reduction in the risk of COVID-19 admissions to Scotland's hospitals. The project, involving Public Health Scotland, the Universities of Edinburgh, Strathclyde, Aberdeen, Glasgow and St Andrew's, is tracking the vaccine rollout in real-time. Among those aged 80 years and over, one of the highest risk groups, vaccination was associated with an 81% reduction in hospitalisation risk in the fourth week.

Alzheimer's/Dementia

[LGBT and dementia toolkit for health and social care staff launched](#)

A toolkit to support health and social care staff to reflect on and develop their practice in working with lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people with dementia has been launched. A range of partners contributed to development of the Proud to Care toolkit, including Scottish Care, providers working across Scotland, Alzheimer Scotland and the Care Inspectorate.

[Survey on dementia work by the Life Changes Trust launched](#)

A short survey on the work of the Life Changes Trust in relation to dementia support has been launched. The University of Stirling and Ipsos MORI survey is designed to understand the views of people who are involved with dementia care, but not directly involved with the Trust. The survey is part of a wider project on the Trust's work.

Care Homes/Care at Home

[Indoor care home visits to resume](#)

Routine indoor visiting of care home residents by relatives, friends and carers will resume from early March, the Scottish Government has confirmed. Care providers will support residents to have up to two designated visitors each and one visit per week for each visitor. Visitors will need to wear face coverings and any PPE requested by the care home and are strongly encouraged to take a COVID test on-site. While visiting may sometimes still be restricted, for example in the event of an outbreak at a care home, the expectation will now be that homes will facilitate regular weekly contact as long as certain safety conditions are met.

- The Scottish Government has published [guidance](#) on meaningful contact in care homes. Donna Bell, Scottish Government Director for Mental Health & Social Care, has issued [a letter to care home providers](#) explaining the new guidance and the steps to supporting it to be adopted across Scotland.
- Alzheimer Scotland has [announced](#) the establishment of a new Action on Rights team, funded by the Scottish Government, to support the delivery of the guidance.



Justice

[Care Inspectorate report on Aberdeen justice social work services](#)

The Care Inspectorate has published a report into how well community payback orders are implemented and managed in Aberdeen. Inspectors looked at how justice social work services in the area were delivering services for individuals who are, or have been, subject to community payback orders. Inspectors found the support provided by justice staff in Aberdeen is having a transformative impact on individuals subject to community payback orders.

Other Health and Social Care

[Roundtable session on social care review findings](#)

The Scottish Parliament's Health and Sport Committee has held a roundtable session to reflect on the findings of its recent social care inquiry and the independent review of adult social care. The Committee took evidence from a range of stakeholders, including CrossReach, East Ayrshire Council and CCPS. Topics discussed included proposals for a new national care service and the role of the Care Inspectorate in relation to oversight.

[ALLIANCE manifesto for Scottish elections in May](#)

The ALLIANCE has published its manifesto for the 2021 Scottish Parliament elections. They are calling for "forward-thinking, far-reaching action" in health and social care, with key messages including:

- Commission an independent, person centred inquiry into the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on health and social care in Scotland.
- Appoint a dedicated Minister for Social Care responsible for implementing the recommendations of the Independent Review of Adult Social Care and delivering an equalities and rights based adult social care reform programme.
- Remove all non-residential social care charges.
- Fully incorporate housing in health and social care integration, for a more joined up approach to prevention and the right to health.

[Survey on levels of trauma-informed understanding](#)

A survey to establish current levels of understanding of psychological trauma across the health and social care workforce has been launched by NHS Education for Scotland (NES). The survey is part of the National Trauma Training Programme, led by NES in partnership with the Scottish Government.

[New quality framework for housing support services and offender accommodation](#)

A new quality framework for housing support services and offender accommodation has been published by the Care Inspectorate. It reflects Scotland's Health and Social Care Standards, which are rights-based, person-led and outcome-focused. The



framework covers a variety of service types providing a range of different supports, including offender accommodation and support provided to children and young people. The framework was originally due to be published in April last year but was delayed due to the pandemic.

[RCN Scotland manifesto launched](#)

The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) in Scotland has launched its manifesto ahead of the Scottish Parliament elections. The manifesto calls on the Scottish Government to value the workforce through fair pay, professional development and wellbeing support, address health inequalities and grow the mental health nursing workforce. On social care, the RCN calls for a commitment to further investment and recruitment to the registered nurse role within care homes to ensure the workforce reflects increasing clinical need. The body also recommends development of an evidence-based methodology for determining safe and effective staffing in the care home sector to ensure that funding reflects clinical need and the correct staffing numbers and skill mix to meet these needs.

[Child abuse inquiry boarding school hearings to commence on 16 March](#)

Public hearings examining the abuse of children in boarding schools are to commence on 16 March, the Chair of the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry has announced. Phase 1 of the evidence, expected to conclude in early April, will hear from representatives of inspection and regulatory bodies, as well as individual boarding schools. Subject to ongoing public health guidance and physical distancing, hearings will take place at the Inquiry's hearing venue at in Edinburgh.

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.