

13 – 19 March 2021



bulletin



Adult and Health

[COVID-19 - General](#)[Alcohol and Drugs](#)[Care Homes/Care at Home](#)[Carers](#)[Disability](#)[Justice](#)[Learning](#)[Mental Health](#)[Social Work](#)[Other Health & Social Care](#)**COVID-19 - General**[First Minister sets out timetable for further lockdown easing](#)

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon has set out indicative dates for the phased reopening of the economy and society. Stay at home regulations will be lifted on Friday 2 April and replaced with guidance to stay local. Relaxations are planned for Monday 5 April, Monday 26 April and Monday 17 May, with an aim to move Scotland to Level 0 on the strategic framework from the end of June. Ms Sturgeon suggested that, with vaccination, better treatments, Test & Protect and ongoing precautions such as good hand hygiene, it is expected that restrictions can be lifted further.

[Analysis of the pandemic and how lives have changed](#)

Analysis on the COVID-19 pandemic and how our lives have changed over the past year has been published by the Office of National Statistics (ONS). Among the findings, the report highlights that COVID-19 caused more deaths in 2020 than other infectious diseases caused for over a century.

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

Public Health Scotland has published its weekly COVID-19 statistics. By 14 March, there had been 210,008 confirmed cases, with 3,638 in the latest week. In the week ending 14 March, there were 220 admissions to hospital with confirmed COVID-19 and 21 new patients treated in intensive care. 578 people aged 5-17 tested positive.



[Care Inspectorate fortnightly report to the Scottish Parliament](#)

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

[Guidance for local authorities on £500 social care payment](#)

Guidance for local authorities on the £500 payment process for social care staff has been published by the Scottish Government. The guidance relates to local authorities who employ staff in adult social care services or children's residential care registered with the Care Inspectorate.

[Scottish Government publishes updated testing strategy](#)

An updated testing strategy has been published by the Scottish Government. The strategy sets out how existing testing routes will continue and be expanded to help suppress COVID-19, alongside other measures such as vaccination and the levels system. The strategy includes £13m investment to establish Scotland's own genomic sequencing service to track new variants and manage future outbreaks.

[CQC reports on DNACPR decisions during COVID-19 pandemic \(England\)](#)

A report on the use of do not attempt cardiopulmonary resuscitation (DNACPR) in England during the COVID-19 pandemic has been published by the Care Quality Commission (CQC). The CQC said there were some examples of good practice but highlighted "worrying variation in people's experiences" and heard from people "who were not properly involved in decisions, or were unaware that such an important decision about their care had been made". Among the recommendations in the report is a call for the establishment of a Ministerial Oversight Group to take responsibility for delivering improvements in relation to DNACPR decisions.

- On the back of the report, [Age Scotland](#) has written to Healthcare Improvement Scotland calling for an investigation into the use of DNACPR in Scotland during the pandemic.


Alcohol and Drugs

[New analysis of alcohol sales in year following minimum pricing implementation](#)

Updated estimates of sales-based population level alcohol consumption have been published by Public Health Scotland. The analysis, undertaken in collaboration with the University of Glasgow, observed the estimated net effect of minimum unit pricing to be a 3.5% reduction in off-trade alcohol sales per adult in the year following implementation, after adjustment for sales in the control area (England & Wales), disposable income and substitution between trade sectors.

[Four funds for drug services announced by the Scottish Government](#)

Four separate funds for drug services have been announced by the Scottish Government. To be introduced in May and worth a total of £18m, the respective



funds will: help third sector organisations to increase capacity; enhance outreach, treatment, rehabilitation and aftercare services; provide additional residential rehabilitation capacity; and support the families of those affected by drug misuse.

Care Homes/Care at Home

[New guidance to support Near Me set up and implementation](#)

New guidance to support social services implement Near Me video calling has been published on the Technology Enabled Care website. Informed by recent piloting of Near Me in social services, the guidance provides practical information on setting up and implementing the consultation tool.

[Weekly data on COVID-19 in adult care homes in Scotland](#)

Weekly figures on the number of COVID-19 deaths in care homes have been published by the Scottish Government. In the week commencing Monday 8 March, 13 of the 199 deaths which took place in the period were with confirmed COVID-19. Visiting status data has also been published.

[COVID-19 Care Home Infection Prevention and Control Addendum](#)

The Care Home Infection and Prevention Control (IPC) Addendum to the National IPC Manual is designed to provide COVID-19 specific IPC guidance for care home staff and providers. The Addendum will be continually reviewed and updated as additional information becomes available.

Carers

[Launch of new vaccination campaign for unpaid carers](#)

From Monday 15 March, unpaid carers aged between 16 and 64 who have not already been identified through social security data or GP systems can register themselves for a COVID-19 vaccination appointment using a new online service. The Scottish Government has confirmed that the new service is open to anyone who provides face-to-face unpaid care for a family member or friend who is affected by a disability, physical or mental ill-health, developmental condition or substance misuse.

Disability

[Report sets out impact of COVID-19 on disabled people in Scotland](#)

A report on how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted disabled people in Scotland through health, social and economic harm has been published by the Scottish Government. The research found higher mortality rates, disproportionate impact from the disruption of health and social care, accessibility issues as a result of COVID-19 measures, increased economic difficulties and a likely increase in mental health issues and loneliness for disabled people. An [easy read version](#) is also available.



Justice

[Latest Scottish Crime and Justice Survey released](#)

The main findings from the Scottish Crime & Justice Survey 2019-20 have been published by the Scottish Government. The report contains a wide-range of evidence about experiences and perceptions of crime, the police and justice system in Scotland, as well as results from the survey's self-completion modules (covering drug use, stalking and harassment, partner abuse, and sexual victimisation).

Learning

[New learning programme on Technology Enabled Care](#)

A new online learning programme to help staff increase their knowledge and understanding of the use of technology in health and care has been launched by NHS Education for Scotland (NES). Using Technology Enabled Care in Practice follows on from the first e-learning module, Introduction to Technology Enabled Care, and is available on Turas Learn.

[Quality Standards for Practice Learning launched by NES](#)

Quality Standards for Practice Learning (QSPL) have been launched by NHS Education for Scotland (NES). Developed in partnership with university, college and practice placement providers, the QSPL reinforce existing professional Health and Care Professions Council and Nursing and Midwifery Council regulatory standards and support learners and organisations to understand their responsibilities and expectations in relation to practice based learning within Scotland.

[Trauma informed practice toolkit published](#)

The Scottish Government has published a trauma informed practice toolkit to support all sectors of the workforce in planning and developing trauma informed services. The toolkit is part of a suite of resources, provided through the National Trauma Training Programme. It is hoped that the toolkit will help to ensure that services are delivered in ways that reduce barriers and prevent further harm or re-traumatisation for those who have experienced psychological trauma or adversity in their lives.

Mental Health

[Latest Mental Health Strategy progress report published](#)

The Scottish Government has published its third progress report on the Mental Health Strategy 2017-27, focussing on specific progress over the past year. It notes the emerging and changing effects on mental health and wellbeing due to the events of the pandemic and provides a wider picture of work being taken forward to improve the mental health of people in Scotland. The Scottish Government [confirmed](#) that more than 500 additional mental health workers have been recruited over the past three years in a drive to expand the workforce and improve access to treatment.



Social Work

[Scottish Association of Social Work launches election manifesto](#)

The Scottish Association of Social Work (SASW) has launched its manifesto ahead of the Scottish Parliament elections. The manifesto calls for urgent measures in law to protect people's human rights and more effective state aid to prevent people living in poverty. The manifesto comprises seven asks across three key priority areas of human rights, poverty, and listening to the voices and experiences of social workers.

[SSSC to co-host webinars to mark World Social Work Day](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) is co-hosting two webinars with the Social Work Education Partnership to mark World Social Work Day. The events, taking place on 25 and 26 March, will share responses to social work practice learning during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Other Health and Social Care

[Health Secretary responds to Committee letter on social care review](#)

Health Secretary Jeane Freeman has responded a number of issues raised by a parliamentary committee on the back of the independent review of adult social care. The Health and Sport Committee's letter touched on the implementation gap, a prevention focus, the workforce, data and pandemic recovery. In her letter, Ms Freeman said placing human rights at the heart of social care and moving away from competition to collaboration requires "a shift in thinking which underpins future funding, commissioning, regulation and critically, delivery".

[Easy-read version of social care review findings published](#)

The Scottish Government has published an easy-read version of the Independent Review of Adult Social Care. The Review, published on 3 February, was Chaired by Derek Feeley and recommends the establishment of a National Care Service, setting out how it could "drive consistent, high quality social care support in partnership with people who have a right to receive that support, unpaid carers and the workforce".

[Funding for new refugee integration project announced](#)

A new scheme to help refugees settle in Scotland is to benefit from £2.8m of funding, the Scottish Government has confirmed. The New Scots Refugee Integration Delivery Project is part of the New Scots refugee integration strategy (2018-22) and will offer small, medium or large grants to organisations to either widen existing work, or start new initiatives which assist those who have had to flee their own country to escape war and terror.

[Domestic Abuse \(Protection\) \(Scotland\) Bill passed by MSPs](#)

New domestic abuse legislation has been passed by MSPs at the Scottish Parliament. The Domestic Abuse (Protection) (Scotland) Bill will enable police and



courts to ban suspected abusers from re-entering the home and from approaching the person at risk for a period of time to enable them to consider their longer-term options around safety and housing. The Bill will also allow social landlords to end or transfer the tenancy of a perpetrator of domestic abuse to the victim.

[Scotland's first long-term national housing strategy published](#)

The Scottish Government has set out its vision for what it wants housing to look like and provide to the people of Scotland, no matter where they live and what point in their life they are at. Housing to 2040 outlines plans to deliver 100,000 affordable homes by 2032, with at least 70% available for social rent. The strategy, the culmination of engagement with the housing sector, wider stakeholders and the public, notes that the Scottish Government will ensure that strategic planning is joined up locally across housing and health and social care services.

[Gypsy/Traveller Action Plan timeline extended](#)

The timeline to complete actions within the Gypsy/Traveller Action Plan has been extended by 18 months, due to the impact of Coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions, the Scottish Government has confirmed. This comes as the funding of up to £20m to provide more and better accommodation for Gypsy/Traveller communities was announced as part of the national housing strategy.

[Chief Medical Officer's Annual Report published](#)

The Chief Medical Officer (CMO) for Scotland's Annual Report for 2020/21 has been published. The report, Dr Gregor Smith's first, focuses on five key themes: the health of the nation, delivering personalised care, reducing health inequalities, workforce sustainability, and green and sustainable healthcare.

[National population strategy published](#)

The Scottish Government has published Scotland's first national population strategy, setting out measures to address the falling birth rate, change working practices and encourage more families to settle in Scotland. A Scotland for the Future proposes a range of actions and support packages, including developing a more sustainable population pattern, community work hubs in town centres for people struggling with remote home working, widening access to fertility treatment, and removing barriers which force older people to stop working before they wish to. It also calls for a demographic commission to be established to promote analysis and debate.

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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