




# Adult and Health



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## **Covid-19 - General**

### [Scotland to move to Level 0 on 19 July](#)

The Scottish Government has confirmed Scotland will move to Level 0 on Monday 19 July. In a statement to the Scottish Parliament, First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said people would still be expected to adhere to protective measures, in order to help create conditions to allow the country to move beyond Level 0 on 9 August.

### [Vaccine surveillance strategy updated](#)

Public Health Scotland has published the latest update to its Covid-19 vaccine surveillance strategy. The strategy aims to support the monitoring of uptake and coverage of the vaccine, rapidly detect and evaluate possible adverse events associated with vaccination and identify risk factors for and outcomes of vaccine effect and failure. The strategy also focuses on monitoring the overall impact of the vaccination programme and inequalities in a number of outcome measures.



### [Covid-19 research repository launched](#)

Public Health Scotland has launched a repository for Covid-19 research in Scotland in collaboration with higher education institutions. The creation of a fully searchable and accessible Covid-19 research repository aims to reduce duplication of effort and makes research easier for policymakers, researchers and the public to find and use.

### [Care Inspectorate report on support for adult social care during Covid-19](#)

The Care Inspectorate has published a report on its scrutiny and support of adult social care during the Covid-19 pandemic. It provides an overview of how adult social care services were supported through increased levels of contact, enhanced notifications, close working between the Care Inspectorate and other national bodies, enhanced communication and augmented inspection framework. The report also outlines the Care Inspectorate's improvement support, oversight arrangements and intelligence gathering role during the pandemic.

## **Care Homes/Care at Home**

### [Advice letter on supporting meaningful contact for care home residents](#)

The Chief Nursing Officer, the National Clinical Director, the Chief Medical Officer and the Director for Mental Health and Social Care have written to all care home providers, as well as NHS boards, health and social care partnerships, chief social work officers, and directors of public health, to provide advice on increasing contact and activities with residents and day care services in care homes at Level 0. The Scottish Government has also published [supplementary information](#) on opening with care practicalities, including answers to questions and concerns related to supporting meaningful contact and activities in and away from care homes.

### [Care home census 2020-21 open](#)

The Care Inspectorate has confirmed the Scottish care homes census 2020-21 form will open from 16 July. Care home services can complete the form through the Care Inspectorate eForms system and will be available until 27 August. A letter from the Scottish Government notes that the 2020 census was cancelled due to the pandemic.

### [Compulsory vaccination of care home staff \(England\)](#)

The House of Commons has approved the Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) (Amendment) (Coronavirus) Regulations 2021 by 319 votes to 246. The approval means there is now a requirement for anyone working in a Care Quality Commission-registered care home in England from October to have two vaccine doses, unless they have a medical exemption. The Scottish, Welsh, and Northern Irish governments have said there are no plans to make Covid-19 vaccination mandatory for care home staff.



## **Carers**

### [Research on experience of unpaid carers during Covid-19](#)

Carers Trust Scotland has released research on the experience of unpaid carers and carer service support workers during the pandemic. Of the 500 participants, 90% stated they were spending more time caring and 82% had no respite since the beginning of the pandemic. Meanwhile, 76% of carer support workers found their workload increased, they also highlighted the emotionally demanding nature of calls from unpaid carers and the challenges of taking these calls in a home working environment without the support of colleagues. The report makes recommendations for a remobilisation plan for care services; reaffirming the organisational purpose of carer services; clear communications between care services and commissioning bodies; transparency from local authorities on Carers (Scotland) Act funding; and support for staff. It also recommends that carer services and unpaid carers should be more involved in the formal decision making relevant to unpaid carers.

### [Updated statutory guidance on Carers Act provisions](#)

The Scottish Government has published updated statutory guidance for local authorities, health boards and integration authorities on effective implementation of the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016. The Act came into force on 1 April 2018 and puts in place a system of carers' rights designed to listen to carers; improve consistency of support; and prevent problems – helping sustain caring relationships and protect carers' health and wellbeing.

## **Justice**

### [Audit Scotland reports on community justice progress](#)

Audit Scotland has published a report on progress made on community justice since the Community Justice (Scotland) Act was introduced in 2016. The report suggests the Scottish Government has yet to achieve its objective of ensuring that people convicted of criminal offences increasingly receive community-based sentences instead of going to prison. Audit Scotland also said it is not clear whether the roles of Community Justice Scotland and community justice partnerships are understood and working effectively.

## **Mental Health**

### [Two reports published for Scottish Mental Health Law Review](#)

The Mental Welfare Commission (MWC) has published two reports for consideration by the Scottish Mental Health Law Review. The first includes new analysis showing very low use of advance statements by people who are detained for treatment and who are visited by doctors appointed by the MWC. The report makes recommendations to health boards to improve uptake of advance statements and suggests the Review considers the issue as part of its work. The second report is a research paper on significantly impaired decision making ability, which found poor practice in recording and describing the practice.



### [Progress report on Tayside mental health services](#)

The Independent Inquiry into Mental Health Services in Tayside has published a progress report which suggests longer-term improvements still have “a long way to go”, the BBC reports. It follows the inquiry’s 2020 report which found staff in mental health services in the region had been left demoralised. Although the progress report recognised positive work in some areas, the inquiry found there was work to be done on listening and involving people and engaging with partners.

### **Other Health and Social Care**

#### [Iriss strategy published](#)

Iriss has published its strategic priorities for 2021-2024. Titled ‘Better lives for people, workers and communities’, the strategy outlines a number of focus areas including continuing to develop and share knowledge for practice and policy making in social work and social care. Iriss will also review the effectiveness of this core work. There are plans to start offering innovation and systems change support to people, workers and organisations.

#### [Scottish Care publishes ‘Time for Change’ report on a national care framework](#)

Scottish Care has published a paper reviewing the recommendations of the Independent Review of Adult Social Care alongside actions emerging from its own work exploring the opportunities of a ‘national care framework’. The actions identified are both complementary and distinct to the recommendations of the Review and overall, Scottish Care aims to demonstrate of the social care sector to wider society and the relational interdependence that social care has with health.

#### [Updated guidance on regulating managers](#)

The Care Inspectorate and Scottish Social Services Council have updated their guidance on the regulation of managers of registered services.

#### [RPS Scotland consults on latest phase of vision for pharmacy in 2030](#)

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) Scotland has launched a consultation on the next phase of its vision for pharmacy in 2030 series. Developed in partnership with the profession, the latest stage of consultation is focusing on the future of general practice pharmacy. The deadline for responses is 1 September. Future stages will focus on hospital pharmacy and specialist pharmacy services, including in relation to care homes.

#### [People with care needs still waiting for support \(England\)](#)

The Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) has published its spring survey. The report suggests almost 75,000 older people, people with disabilities and carers are waiting for care and support as social services continue to deal with the rise in demand due to the pandemic. Unprecedented numbers of



people are reportedly waiting for an assessment of their needs, or for agreed care and support arrangements to be put in place. Almost 7,000 people have been waiting more than six months for an assessment.

## Other

### [Next stage of developing second National Action Plan for Human Rights confirmed](#)

Plans for the next stage of work to develop a second National Action Plan for Human Rights (SNAP 2) have been set out by the Scottish Human Rights Commission (SHRC). Work has been taking place to develop detailed plans and proposal for SNAP 2 since late 2017, with a business case for resources and implementation developed in partnership with and approved by Scottish Ministers in May 2021 following a delay due to Covid-19. The following steps will now take place:

- Scottish Government participation at senior level in a new SNAP 2 Leadership Panel to be established in autumn 2021.
- Initial Scottish Government resourcing of a Secretariat Lead in 2021-22, to be hosted by the SHRC, as the first step in establishing a full independent SNAP 2 Secretariat.
- Refining, prioritising and identifying resources to support SNAP 2 actions.

## 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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