



Adult
and
Health



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Covid-19 - General

[Booster vaccines to be rolled out](#)

The UK Government has confirmed that they will accept the final advice from the independent Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) to offer booster vaccines to priority groups. These groups will be care home residents, health and social care workers, people aged over 50, those aged 16 to 49 years with underlying health conditions that put them at higher risk of severe COVID-19, adult carers, and adult household contacts of immunosuppressed individuals will be prioritised.

[Update on international travel](#)

Public Health Scotland has published an update on international travel and Covid-19, containing information on the current traffic light system, country specific Covid-19 risk, and advice for travellers.



[Tracking spending on Covid-19](#)

A report tracking Scottish Government spending on Covid-19 by Audit Scotland suggests that transparency around what is classed as Covid-19 spending across government portfolios remains challenging in a fast-moving and unpredictable environment. Reportedly, the Scottish Government estimates it has spent over £8.8 billion of the £9.3 billion allocated to support Covid-19 spending in 2020/21, with over 300 individual spending measures announced to date and the largest amounts going to business, health and social care, and local government.

[Autumn and Winter Plan for Covid-19 response \(England\)](#)

Plans for Autumn and Winter 2021/22 have been published by the UK Government, outlining their comprehensive approach 'Plan A' and the 'Plan B' to be enacted if the data suggests further measures are necessary to protect the NHS.

Alcohol/Drugs

[Data on suspected drugs deaths](#)

A joint publication by Police Scotland, National Records of Scotland, Public Health Scotland, and the Scottish Government has been published on 'Suspected drug deaths in Scotland: April to June 2021', focusing on management information from Police Scotland on suspected drug deaths to provide as timely an indication of current trends in drug deaths in Scotland as is possible. The data reportedly shows that suspected drug deaths during the first six months of 2021 fell very slightly but were at a similar level to those recorded during the first six months of 2020. Overall, there continues to be an upward trend in suspected drug deaths over the period for which data is available.

[Care experiences of people living with alcohol related brain damage](#)

A report has been published, 'Care and treatment for people with alcohol related brain damage in Scotland', by the Mental Welfare Commission, which focuses on people with alcohol related brain damage (ARBD) who are also subject to a welfare guardianship order, and also looks at care arrangements, at how the law is being used and at whether good practice is being followed. Reportedly finding that people with ARBD are living in care homes where they are much younger than other residents, the report's recommendations for health and social care partnerships include:

- commissioning suitable, age appropriate, and where possible, specialist alcohol related brain damage services
- the role of delegated officer in a local authority must be held by a named person who maintained regular contact with the individual subject to the restrictions of the guardianship order
- multidisciplinary reviews should be dynamic, coordinated processes informed by the principles of the law, maximising both the contribution of the person and their relatives/carers where appropriate

- advocacy support should be an important safeguard to ensure respect for the rights, will and preferences of the person

Care Homes/Care at Home

[Suspension of care home in Lockerbie](#)

The Care Inspectorate, following an interim suspension of the of the care provider's registration at Singleton Park Care Home, Lockerbie ordered by the Sheriff Court, is working with partners at Dumfries and Galloway Health and Social Care Partnership and the Scottish Government to ensure residents of the home experience a safe transition to new care arrangements. The legal action has been taken to ensure people experienced an improvement in their care following serious concerns raised during an inspection.

[Supporting residents to have a named visitor during Covid-19 outbreaks](#)

The Scottish Government has published interim, advice recommending that care home residents be supported to have a named visitor during COVID-19 controlled outbreaks. The advice consists of guidance for the care home sector on supporting named visitors during managed outbreaks, and an accompanying letter to the sector.

[Care Inspectorate report to the 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. For each care service inspected, inspection reports will be published by the Care Inspectorate in due course. To meet the timescales imposed by legislation, the report to Parliament outlines high-level findings following oral feedback to care providers.

[Resource to support better oral care in care homes](#)

The Care Inspectorate has published guidance, developed with the programme leads for Caring for Smiles and Open Wide oral health programmes, on 'Supporting better oral care in care homes'. This joint resource gives an overview of what quality care looks like in oral care for adults. It outlines good practice for care services and staff to measure themselves against and support them to improve. This new resource offers a wealth of good practice guidance, hints and tips, and useful links to guidance documents. It will also form part of our scrutiny toolbox for inspectors.

Justice

[Review of community justice social work services](#)

The Care Inspectorate has published a report following a focussed review of throughcare practice in community justice social work services. Inspectors looked at the throughcare service provided in the community, which is where individuals are released from prison on licence, or subject to a relevant order, and then breach their order or were subsequently recalled to prison. Amongst other key messages, the review found that services have a consistent understanding of their statutory duties,



and staff are clear in their role and committed to protecting the public and supporting individual change.

Older People

[Few older people feel valued and many feel a burden to society](#)

The results of a survey of older people in Scotland by Age Scotland and Scotinform reportedly show that only one in five older people feel valued and more than a third feel like a burden on society. Questioning more than 3,500 people aged 50 and over living in Scotland, the 'Big Survey' explores areas such as health and wellbeing, housing, experiences of ageism, representation of older people and the impact of Covid-19.

Workforce

[Scottish Care recruitment and retention survey](#)

Scottish Care has published an interim report on their workforce recruitment and retention survey, aiming to show an up-to-date picture of the issues faced by the workforce. The findings from the survey reportedly show widespread difficulty across the independent, third and voluntary sectors, shared by members and non-members alike. The report also details findings related to contract types and hours worked as well as sickness and absence levels.

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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