




Adult and Health



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Covid-19 - General

[Setting up the Scottish COVID-19 Public Inquiry](#)

The Scottish Government is seeking views on its approach to setting up the Scottish public inquiry into the handling of the pandemic. Using the Dialogue platform, the Scottish Government are asking for ideas and comments from 23 – 30 September 2021.

[Update on vaccine certificates](#)

An update has been issued on plans for introducing a COVID-19 vaccine certification scheme, including how the scheme will operate. Following the Scottish Parliament's approval of proposals, the update provides further detail on how the scheme will operate.



[New antibody treatment](#)

The Department of Health & Social Care has announced a new antibody treatment. Ronapreve, a combination of two monoclonal antibodies, which will be targeted initially at those in hospital who have not established an antibody response against COVID. The UK Government has secured sufficient supply of the new therapeutic for NHS patients across the four nations.

[Direct and indirect impacts of Covid-19 \(England\)](#)

The Department of Health & Social Care and the Office of National Statistics (ONS) have published a long paper on direct and indirect health impacts of COVID. They have also published a [short paper](#) on the same subject.

[Insight report into planning for care whilst tackling Covid-19 backlog \(England\)](#)

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has published their latest Covid-19 insight report, examining how NHS Trusts are now planning for people's care while tackling the backlog caused by COVID-19 and their assessment of challenges.

Alcohol/Drugs

[Police warning scheme to be extended to Class A drugs](#)

In a statement to the Scottish Parliament, the Lord Advocate has announced that recorded police warnings, a system of handling low level offences without prosecution, would be extended to cover possession of Class A drugs. The statement also discussed diversion from prosecution.

Care Homes/Care at Home

[Care home residents to be offered booster vaccinations first](#)

The Scottish Government has confirmed that residents in care homes for older people will be the first to be offered COVID booster vaccinations. This group will be offered both flu and COVID booster vaccines after the Joint Committee on Vaccination & Immunisation advised they could be given alongside one another.

Carers

[Implementation plan for Carers \(Scotland\) Act](#)

An implementation plan for 2021 – 2023 for the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 has been published by the Scottish Government. The plan sets out outcomes and actions in relation to six key priorities for implementation of the Act in 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23:

- Strategy and leadership
- Legislation and guidance
- Workforce and systems support and development



- Raising awareness
- Carer involvement and choice
- Measuring progress and impact

End of Life and Palliative Care

[Proposal for Member's Bill on assisted dying](#)

A consultation has been launched by Liam McArthur MSP on a proposed Member's Bill to enable competent adults who are terminally ill to be provided at their request with assistance to end their life. The consultation document states that the proposal presented is one that co-exists with support for more and better palliative care and applies only to terminally ill, mentally competent adults. The consultation will close on 22 December 2021.

Mental Health

[Racial inequality across mental health services](#)

A report examining racial inequality across mental health services has been published by the Mental Welfare Commission. The report, 'Racial inequality and mental health services in Scotland: A call for action' finds differences in the ways the Mental Health Act is applied when people from ethnic minorities are detained for mental health care and treatment compared to white Scottish people, particularly between black women and white Scottish women. Making 30 recommendations in the report, the Mental Welfare Commission hopes that it leads to a series of actions within mental health services and is the start of a much wider discussion.

[Guidance for managers to receive mental health training \(England\)](#)

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) and Public Health England have published new guidance which advises all employers to provide mental health training for managers. The guideline on Mental Wellbeing at Work advises that training should equip managers with the knowledge, tools, skills and resources to improve awareness of mental wellbeing at work.

Older People

[Report on consultation event on older adults' mental health experiences](#)

The ALLIANCE and partners have published a report following a consultation event to discuss older adults' mental health and their experiences of mental health and social care services both before and during the COVID-19 pandemic. The report aims to help inform the Scottish Government's Mental Health Transition and Recovery Plan.



[Activity to help older people keep in shape](#)

A new health and wellbeing activity has been launched by Age Scotland to help older people keep their bodies and mind in good shape. Power Quiz offers a series of accessible movement-based exercises to get people moving, along with multiple-choice quiz questions to fire up the mind.

Other Health and Social Care

[Scottish Hospitals Inquiry starts oral hearings](#)

The Scottish Hospitals Inquiry has started their oral hearings and will hear from affected patients and families. The inquiry will investigate the construction of the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital Campus, Glasgow, and the Royal Hospital for Children and Young People, and Department of Clinical Neurosciences, Edinburgh. It will determine how issues relating to adequacy of ventilation, water contamination and other matters impacted on patient safety and care and whether these issues could have been prevented.

[Flu vaccine programme and social care staff](#)

The Care Inspectorate is highlighting that the free flu vaccine programme for 2021 will again include social care staff of all ages who have a direct hands-on care role. Workers in the following settings are eligible:

- residential care and secure care for children
- community care for persons at home (including housing support, care at home services and personal assistants)
- care homes for adults

[Work of the Knowledge Network](#)

NHS Education Scotland has published a report on the work of its Knowledge Network and how they've supported health and care over the past year.

[Social work peer support](#)

The Institute for Research and Innovation in Social Services (Iriss) is highlighting the Professional Support Service available for social workers with free and confidential peer coaching. Giving social workers a space to talk and think through any personal or professional issues they may be facing, with a trained volunteer coach who is also a social worker, the service aims to enhance skills and provide opportunities to develop careers.

[Appointments to social care expert advisory group \(England\)](#)

The UK Government's Migration Advisory Committee has announced the appointment of four experts to its social care advisory group to provide support t work on the social care commission.



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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