16 – 22 October 2021

bulletin

Adult and Health

Covid-19 - General

ALLIANCE briefing sets out key issues for Covid-19 inquiry

The ALLIANCE has published a briefing setting out the key issues it would like to see included within the remit of the independent inquiry into the Covid-19 response. Social care, palliative care and Do Not Attempt Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation forms are among the recommended issues to be included among the aims and principles, while the ALLIANCE also highlights a human rights based approach and prioritising lived experience as important considerations in conducting the inquiry.

Unpaid carers struggling due to pandemic pressures, charity finds

Unpaid carers are struggling to cope with the pressure brought by Covid-19 and extra investment is required to support them, according to Carers Scotland. New research for the charity's State of Caring report, to be released in full next month, found that 70% of those who use day services have reduced or no access because of Covid-19, while 16% of carers are confident that they would get the support they need in the next 12 months. Furthermore, 66% worry services will be reduced, while 51% worry about losing access to voluntary sector services because due to budget reductions, according to the charity.

Alcohol and Drugs

[Evidence paper on safer drug consumption facilities published](#)

A paper highlighting evidence in support of safer drug consumption facilities has been published by the Scottish Government. The paper evaluates international examples within the context of Glasgow's public injecting issues. The paper highlights that in 2019 both the Scottish Affairs Committee and the Health and Social Care Committee recommended the use of the facilities but there are currently existing legal barriers to their opening in Scotland.

Care Homes/Care at Home

[Plan for new 58-bed care home in Inverness secures funding](#)

Parklands Care Homes has secured funding for a new 58-bed care home in Milton of Leys, healthandcare.scot reports. The Inverness site will also include 11 adjoining independent living properties.

End of Life/Palliative Care

[Increase in home deaths likely to have end of life care implications, says analysis](#)

The sustained increase in home deaths since the start of the pandemic is likely to have implications for palliative care provision, according to an analysis by the Scottish Centre for Administrative Data Research. The article highlights National Records of Scotland data showing that up to the start of August 2021, 34.4% of all deaths in Scotland happened in people's own homes or other non-institutional settings, up from 31.9% in 2020. The article suggests that "better understanding" this shift could inform future care and end of life strategies and notes that the Centre is finalising details of a related project application.

Infection Prevention and Control

[New winter IPC guidance on respiratory infections published ahead of launch](#)

New infection prevention and control (IPC) guidance on respiratory infections in health and care settings for the coming winter has been published on the Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare Associated Infection Scotland (ARHAI) website. The guidance recognises a surge is likely in respiratory viruses and infections in addition to Covid-19 over this winter season and it supersedes the three Covid-19 addenda for acute, care home, and community health and care settings first published in October 2020. The documents are being issued to stakeholders to give advance notice of content and allow for implementation planning ahead of live launch on Monday 1 November 2021. Appendices also published:

- [Appendix 17 (AGPs and Post AGP Fallow Times)](#)
- [Appendix 18 (Physical Distancing in health and care settings)](#)

Learning Disabilities

[Academic report makes recommendations to improve outcomes for people with learning disabilities](#)

A report making recommendations for "evidence-based effective action" for people with learning disabilities in Scotland has been published by the Fraser of Allander Institute. Over the past 15 months, the research institute has looked at evidence and policy for adults with learning disabilities in Scotland, finding that "the evidence on which to base effective policy to improve the outcomes for people living with a learning disability is severely lacking". Recommendations include "a robust baseline of support" in terms of financial resources, eligibility and experience of the current social care system, as well as proposals to ensure that changes made as part of ongoing sectoral reform improve transitions for young people with disabilities

Mental Health

[New Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund launched](#)

A new fund to help tackle the impact of social isolation, loneliness and mental health inequalities has been announced by the Scottish Government. The £15m Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund aims to support adult community-based initiatives to re-connect and revitalise communities, building on examples good practice that have emerged during the pandemic.

Regulation

[SPSO publishes Annual Report and Accounts 2020-21](#)

The Scottish Public Services Ombudsman (SPSO) has published its annual report and accounts for 2020-21. According to the report, 3,130 public service complaints were received (4,226 in total when including complaints carried over from last year) and 3,176 closed; 61% of all investigated public service complaints were upheld, while 740 recommendations were made to public bodies.

[CQC publishes annual State of Care report (England)](#)

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has published its annual assessment of health and social care in England. State of Care looks at the trends, shares examples of good and outstanding care, and highlights where care needs to improve. The report highlights the "intensely damaging" impact of Covid-19 and suggests that the pandemic has exacerbated existing issues that people from some groups have faced in accessing and receiving high-quality care. It is also suggested that health and social care staff are "exhausted" and "depleted".

[Amendment to allow CQC to have oversight of Integrated Care Systems (England)](#)

An amendment to proposed health and social care legislation will give the Care Quality Commission (CQC) new powers to have oversight of Integrated Care Systems in England. According to the CQC, the amended Health and Care Bill,

currently making its way through the House of Commons, will allow the regulator "to look more effectively at how the care provided in a local system is improving outcomes for people and reducing inequalities in their care".

Other Health and Social Care

[Scottish Government publishes adult social care winter preparedness plan](#)

The Scottish Government has published its preparedness plan for adult social care over the forthcoming winter. The plan, accompanied by the [Health and Social Care Winter Overview](#), sets out the measures that will be applied across the sector to meet the challenges of the winter and centres on four key principles: supporting the needs and wellbeing of the social care workforce and unpaid carers; maintaining high quality integrated health and social care services through the autumn and winter period; protecting those who use social care support from the direct impact of Covid-19; and working in partnership across health and social care.

[NHS Scotland Academy launched](#)

The NHS Scotland Academy has been officially launched by Health Secretary Humza Yousaf. A collaboration between NHS Golden Jubilee and NHS Education for Scotland, the Academy is backed by £9m investment to accelerate training and build the health workforce in Scotland. It will feature a mix of residential, distance and virtual reality learning, with a range of training programmes linked to recruitment, career progression and redesign of roles.

[Analysis of consultation responses on data standards in public sector organisations](#)

The Scottish Government has published an analysis of responses to a consultation on data standards in public sector organisations within Scotland. The report provides an overview of the findings from the consultation activity undertaken and proposes a Framework for Action for the Scottish Government's Data Standards Team. [A report](#) on supporting the development of a Data Transformation Framework to improve and enable data reuse in the public sector has been published alongside the analysis.

[ALLIANCE report highlights learning from Third Sector Forums in Scottish Borders](#)

The ALLIANCE has published a report summarising learning from engagement with the third sector on health and social care in the Scottish Borders. This year the ALLIANCE has organised two Third Sector Forums in partnership with Borders Care Voice and the Berwickshire Association for Voluntary Service, giving participants the chance to discuss key issues in health and social care and to imagine expectations for health and social care 20 years from now.

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.