




Adult and Health



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Covid-19 – General

[Further roll-out of flu and Covid-19 vaccines](#)

The Scottish Government has confirmed individuals aged 60 to 69 and adults aged 16-and-over with underlying health conditions have now started to receive invitations for their flu and Covid booster vaccinations. Appointments for this cohort will take place at a local community clinic and will run from late October and throughout November. More than 1.5 million Covid-19 and flu vaccinations have been administered since 6 September.

[Additional funding to meet costs of pandemic announced](#)

The Scottish Government is allocating a further £482 million to NHS boards and integration authorities to help meet the costs of the pandemic and remobilise health services. This includes funding for Test and Protect and to support the progress of the vaccination programme. The money is in addition to the £2.1 billion already provided to NHS boards and integration authorities to support further Covid-19 costs. The government has said that further funding will be provided as necessary over the course of the year.

[Post-Covid Futures Commission findings published](#)

Robust preparation to support an effective response to emerging challenges will be crucial, a new Commission has warned. Highlighting the role of common purpose as a catalyst for positive



change, the Royal Society of Edinburgh Post-Covid Futures Commission report notes a number of key challenges as we emerge from the pandemic. It stresses the need for further conversations around the use of personal data, calls for the creation of a national participation centre and strategy for Scotland, and suggests public services need to be reconsidered to centre the principles of the Christie Commission.

[Update report on community empowerment during pandemic](#)

An update report on how public bodies worked with and empowered communities in response to the Covid-19 pandemic has been published by Audit Scotland. The report suggests that the speed with which some communities were enabled and empowered to work with councils and partners showed how bureaucratic barriers can be quickly removed. It calls for momentum to be maintained and provides case studies from across Scotland to support public bodies and their communities to develop longer-term approaches to supporting and empowering citizens.

[Shielding follow-up survey launched](#)

In June, Public Health Scotland ran a survey on behalf of the Scottish Government to learn more about people's experience of shielding. It has now launched a follow-up survey to understand the longer-term impact and people's experience of changes in the programme over time. The survey closes on 7 November.

Alcohol and Drugs

[Findings of study into impact of minimum pricing published](#)

The National Institute for Health Research have published an analysis of the impact of Minimum Unit Pricing (MUP) reported in emergency departments, sexual health clinics and communities in Scotland. Led by researchers at the University of Glasgow, the study assessed MUP's impact on hazardous and harmful drinking and alcohol-related attendances in emergency departments. It also investigated MUP's effect on alcohol source and drug use, and explored changes in public attitudes, experiences and norms towards MUP. The study found that "implementation of minimum unit pricing at 50p per unit was unproblematic with no evidence of beneficial or harmful impacts on the outcomes evaluated".

Care Homes/Care at Home

[Homecare Association publishes report on fees paid by public organisations](#)

A report on the fees paid by public organisations for homecare has been published by the Homecare Association. The Homecare Deficit details the findings of enquiries made under freedom of information legislation to 340 public organisations which purchase homecare across the UK. According to the report, since 2020, the number of hours of homecare purchased by public sector organisations has risen by 11% in the United Kingdom overall and 12% in Scotland. The average hourly fee rate for homecare in Scotland was £18.62, while one local authority in Scotland was paying the Homecare Association's Minimum Price for Homecare of £21.43, calculated as



“an absolute minimum to ensure compliance with the national legal minimum wage of £8.91 per hour, care regulations, and to enable sustainability of services”.

[Care Inspectorate Wales publishes Covid-19 data \(Wales\)](#)

Care Inspectorate Wales has published data showing the number of notifications about the death of people involving Covid-19 received from individual adult care homes in Wales between 1 January 2020 and 30 June 2021. The data aims to provide a more comprehensive picture of the impact of COVID-19 on care homes, the people living in them, their families and the staff who cared for them.

Disabilities

[BSL national plan progress report published](#)

A progress report on the Scottish Government’s British Sign Language (BSL) National Plan 2017-23 has been published. The publication has been delayed by a year due to the pandemic, and as such the report concludes that many of the actions “remain wholly or partly incomplete”. The Scottish Government notes that it has continued to support BSL during this period and is committed to considering what further work needs to be done as it develops its Covid recovery plans.

[Easy read version of Covid recovery consultation published](#)

The Scottish Government and Disability Equality Scotland have co-produced an easy read version of the Covid recovery consultation to support a virtual disability consultation workshop. The easy read version is based on the full consultation paper which is available on the Scottish Government’s [website](#).

Justice

[HMIPS publishes annual report for 2020-21](#)

HM Inspectorate of Prosecution in Scotland (HMIPS) has published its annual report for 2020-21. The report outlines the early response of the HMIPS to the pandemic and notes some of the challenges it faced, including remote jury centres and homeworking, as well as the early response of the HMIPS. The report also notes work with the Care Inspectorate and others in exploring options for joint scrutiny of community justice.

Mental Health

[Oversight of NHS Tayside mental health services – group appointed](#)

Minister for Mental Wellbeing and Social Care Kevin Stewart has confirmed the appointment of an independent group to provide oversight and assurance of NHS Tayside’s mental health services. It will work with the Tayside Executive Partnership on the implementation of recommendations made by an [inquiry](#) led by David Strang. The new group will be chaired by Fiona Lees, a former Chief Executive of East



Ayrshire Council, and will report on a quarterly basis to the minister. It is being established for a 12-month period initially, although this might be extended.

[Mental Welfare Commission publishes young people monitoring report 2020-21](#)

The Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland has published its young people monitoring report for 2020-21. According to the report, there were 86 admissions of young people under the age of 18 to non-specialist, mostly adult, hospital wards for mental health treatment in the previous year. This is a fall from 2019-20 where there were 103 admissions, but the report stresses these numbers are not directly comparable due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Workforce

[Guidance published on flexible workforce development fund](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has produced a summary of guidance on the flexible workforce development fund, which supports Scottish employers to provide inclusive learning opportunities for their existing workforce. Social service workers can access funded training or qualifications through the fund, which can lead to career progression and help in the development of new skills.

Other Health and Social Care

[Consultation on Care Inspectorate corporate plan launched](#)

We have launched a formal consultation on our new Corporate Plan, which will cover the three-year period from 2022-2025. The consultation will run until 21 November and is available to complete on our [consultation platform](#). We are also hosting a series of online consultation events, which will take place on:

- Friday 12 November: 10:00 – 11:30
- Tuesday 16 November: 10:00 – 11:30
- Tuesday 16 November: 13:00 – 14:30
- Wednesday 17 November: 10:00 – 11:30

[Refreshed digital health and care strategy published](#)

The Scottish Government and COSLA have published an updated Digital Health and Care Strategy, setting out how they will work to improve the care and wellbeing of people in Scotland by making use of digital technologies in the design and delivery of services. This is an update to the previous strategy, published in 2018, and reflects the pace and scale of change brought about by the coronavirus pandemic.

[ALLIANCE report on National Care Service consultation event](#)

The ALLIANCE has published a report summarising its National Care Service consultation members' event on 7 October. During the event, several members shared that some of the elements of the consultation that are most pressing to



address are: the potential impact that the National Care Service will have on the social care workforce and on investment in the third sector; the accessibility of the consultation document and process; and how care and support are thought of, both within the National Care Service as well as on a societal scale.

[Additional funding to prevent delayed discharge confirmed](#)

Two new programmes to help patients avoid a hospital stay wherever possible, and to prevent delayed discharge for inpatients has been announced by the Scottish Government. Interface Care will deliver safe, high-quality care as an alternative to hospital admission, or will support early hospital discharge. Discharge without Delay will improve pathways through hospital settings, reducing inpatient length of stay and building bed capacity. Working with patients, families and/or carers, it will ensure patients are treated in their home where appropriate. The £10m funding for the two programmes is part of a range of actions included in the £300m winter package of funding to health and social care services.

[Update on NES Knowledge Services](#)

NHS Education for Scotland (NES) has provided an update on the work of its Knowledge Services in providing a digital library service for all health and social care staff in the NHS, local authorities, and the third and independent sectors. The [Social Services Knowledge Scotland \(SSKS\) Library Search](#) allows users to find books, journals and articles designed to support practice and learning. The article also highlights the SSKS resources available on the Care Inspectorate's [Hub website](#).

[Event to explore how care can be commissioned differently](#)

An event to explore how care and support can be commissioned to enable people to thrive is to be hosted by the Centre for Public Impact, Health Improvement Scotland and Iriss. The event, on 17 November, will place a particular focus on the potential of applying Human Learning Systems to commission differently at person, place and national levels.

[Guidance to public bodies on leadership in meeting global climate problems](#)

Guidance to public bodies on their leadership role in the shared national endeavour to tackle the global crises of health, climate emergency and biodiversity loss has been published by the Scottish Government. The guidance provides advice on: leadership; carbon management; interpretations of the strengthened legislation for reporting duties; and resources available to support public bodies.

**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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