




# Adult and Health



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## Covid-19 – General

[Update report on scale-up and adoption of digital care solutions](#)

The Scottish Government has published an update report on the scale-up and adoption of digital health and care solutions in Scotland in response to the pandemic. The progress report is intended to inform stakeholders of the activities undertaken as part of the government's response to the pandemic, enable decision makers to identify areas for further prioritisation, inform the identification of key lessons learned, and share learning with other countries. Initiatives highlighted include Digital Inclusion in Care Homes and work with care homes to support the use of Near Me.

[Updated Covid-19 strategic framework published](#)

An updated Covid-19 Strategic Framework has been published by the Scottish Government. The Framework sets out the latest approach to managing the pandemic, with a challenging winter expected as the effect of the Covid-19 vaccine reduces over time alongside a more challenging influenza season. Eligibility for vaccination has been expanded since the last update, with people aged 40 to 49 now offered the Covid-19 booster vaccination.



## **Alcohol and Drugs**

### [Free phone line launched to help drugs users stay safe](#)

A new anonymous phone service has been launched to ensure drugs users remain safe while they are using drugs, the Scottish Government has announced. The Never Use Alone service will begin in November, initially being trialled in Glasgow and North and South Ayrshire, before eventually being rolled out across the country. The service will be run by the charity We Are With You.

## **Infection Prevention and Control**

### [Online portal for autumn/winter vaccination programme](#)

An online portal has been launched by the Scottish Government for eligible people to book their autumn/winter vaccination appointments. The portal will facilitate advance bookings for appointments running from late November through December, and is available to people aged 50 to 59, unpaid carers who are 16 and over, and those aged 16 and over who are household contacts of immunosuppressed individuals

### [New three-in-one winter virus tests introduced in hospitals](#)

Single tests to identify whether patients are infected with Covid-19, the flu or respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) are being rolled out across hospitals in Scotland, the Scottish Government has announced. The new three-in-one 'multiplex tests' will be used for patients showing respiratory symptoms at some emergency departments and assessment units.

## **Justice**

### [Consultation launched on bail and release from custody arrangements](#)

The Scottish Government is seeking views on bail/remand and release from custody arrangements. The Government is looking to make changes to bail laws so that those who do not pose a risk of serious harm are managed safely in the community. The consultation also includes proposed changes to the way people are released from custody, with an emphasis on better reintegration and a focus on support provided to people leaving prison so that they don't reoffend. The consultation closes on 7 February 2022.

## **Older People**

### [SCIE publishes vision for housing with care and support for older people \(England\)](#)

A vision and roadmap for providing more options for housing with care and support has been set out by the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE). The report, the result of research undertaken by the Commission on the Role of Housing in the Future of Care and Support, sets out a range of recommendations to reform how housing with care and support is planned, commissioned, designed and delivered.



## Other Health and Social Care

### [Joint Inspection of adult support and protection in South Ayrshire](#)

Inspectors have identified some strengths and key weaknesses in adult support and protection processes and leadership in South Ayrshire. Inspectors from the Care Inspectorate, Healthcare Improvement Scotland and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland carried out a joint inspection of the South Ayrshire Adult Protection Partnership between August and November 2021. They looked at how effectively the Partnership ensures adults at risk of harm are safe, protected, and supported. Inspectors identified some strengths in adult support and protection processes but also found areas of weakness in key processes and strategic leadership for adult support and protection, and substantial areas for improvement.

### [Paper highlights examples of human rights approach to digital health and social care](#)

A new paper showcasing practice-based examples of digital services which embed human rights principles in their delivery has been published by the ALLIANCE. The paper stems from work between the ALLIANCE, Scottish Care and VOX to develop five principles for a human rights based approach to digital health and social care. The case studies provided have been identified as examples where the principles are already at the heart of work being delivered.

### [Wellbeing coaching for health and social services workers](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council has highlighted the Coaching for Wellbeing service to support health and social care workers during seasonal pressures. The service is free and available to all health and social services staff as part of the National Wellbeing hub. It is designed to support workers with any issues they face, including: personal and professional; supporting individuals in building resilience; helping them to take action to improve their wellbeing; and helping people explore how they lead others through challenging times.

### [Funding to improve and grow primary care](#)

Funding of £7 million to improve GP surgeries and expand the primary care estate has been announced by the Scottish Government. £5 million from the Primary Care Fund 2021/22 has been set aside to improve existing GP premises, with an additional £2 million to obtain new sites. These sites will accommodate multi-disciplinary teams, including those administering vaccines, mental health nurses and audiology specialists.

### [New Permanent Secretary appointed](#)

John Paul Marks has been appointed Permanent Secretary, the Scottish Government has announced. Mr Marks joins the Scottish Government from the Department for Work and Pensions and succeeds Leslie Evans in the most senior leadership role in the civil service, taking up post on 5 January 2022.



### [Adult social care charging reform \(England\)](#)

The UK Government has published further details on the new charging reform framework for adult social care, confirming key outstanding policy details such as the standard level at which daily living costs will be set. The policy paper notes that the daily living costs for people in care will be set at a national, notional amount of £200 per week, adding that this is notional amount to reflect that a proportion of residential care fees are not directly linked to personal care, such as rent.

#### **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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