




# Adult and Health



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## Covid-19 - General

### [Report estimates deaths averted as a result of vaccines](#)

An estimated 27,656 deaths have been directly averted as a result of Scotland's Covid-19 vaccination programme, according to a World Health Organisation led paper supported by Public Health Scotland. The paper documents the estimated number of lives saved in people aged 60 years and over from Covid-19 vaccination programmes in 33 countries from December 2020 to November 2021. It estimates that a total of 469,186 (51% of expected) deaths in 33 countries have been averted as a result of vaccination, including an estimated 86% of deaths in Scotland.

### [Updated Covid-19 guidance for pregnant employees](#)

Updated Covid-19 guidance for pregnant employees has been published by the UK Government. The revised guidance, applicable in Scotland, advises that pregnant women who are unvaccinated at any gestation should take a more precautionary approach in light of increased risk. The Scottish Government has issued a [letter](#) summarising the changes.

### [Upcoming changes to Covid-19 reporting](#)

Public Health Scotland (PHS) is to implement some changes to its Covid-19 Weekly Report and Daily Dashboard. From 8 December, a new look PHS Covid-19 and Winter Weekly Report will be published each Wednesday, while PHS will also move to 5-day reporting of the



Covid-19 Daily Dashboard, with weekend trend data reported on a Monday.

## **Adult Support and Protection**

### [Joint Inspection of adult support and protection in Dumfries and Galloway](#)

A joint inspection of adult support and protection measures in Dumfries and Galloway has found clear strengths in ensuring adults at risk of harm are safe, protected and supported. However, inspectors also identified areas which could further improve. Inspectors from the Care Inspectorate, Healthcare Improvement Scotland and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland carried out an inspection in the area between September and November 2021.

### [Analysis of views on adult support and protection GP and Primary Care guidance](#)

The Scottish Government has published an analysis of responses to a consultation on the proposed updating of adult support and protection guidance for GP and Primary Care teams. The guidance is to aid practitioners in implementing the Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007 and should be used in conjunction with the Code of Practice, also being updated. The Scottish Government is now considering all responses, with updated guidance to be published in due course.

## **Alcohol and Drugs**

### [Terms of reference National Drugs Mission Implementation Group published](#)

The terms of reference for an implementation group to tackle drug deaths have been published by the Scottish Government. The National Drugs Mission Implementation Group will be chaired by the Minister for Drugs Policy and will include individuals with lived or living experience of drug use to ensure that the perspective and experiences of living and lived experience are embedded in the work of the group. A key function of the Group will be to identify and overcome barriers to delivering the National Mission, to be identified by members, third sector organisations, statutory services and lived and living experience representatives and networks.

### [Official statistics on drug seizures and offender characteristics published](#)

Official statistics on drug seizures and offender characteristics across 2018-19 and 2019-20 have been published by the Scottish Government. According to the statistics, there were 30,469 drug possession crimes recorded by the police in 2019-20, compared to 29,843 drug possession crimes in 2018-19 and 27,171 in 2017-18. In 2018-19, 58% of all possession-related seizures involved these two drug types, with the equivalent figure of 55% for 2019-20.

## **Care Homes/Care at Home**

### [Summary of evidence on new models of care at home published by Iriss](#)

A summary of evidence on new models of care at home and the evidence supporting their use has been published by the Institute for Research and Innovation in Social



Services (Iriss). According to the Evidence Search and Summary Service outline, finding evidence on the impact of non-traditional social care and support approaches is challenging generally, and the search revealed little in the way of strong empirical research from Scotland and comparable countries, around new and existing models of care at home. It is suggested “there are a number of alternative approaches to independent, inclusive living, but few examples being widely implemented in practice, little evidence of consistent efforts to share learning, and the extent to which they can be scaled up is questionable”.

#### [Lockerbie care home to close following lack of interest in takeover](#)

A care home in Lockerbie is to close after lack of interest following the interim suspension of the care provider’s registration in September, the BBC reports. Dumfries and Galloway Health and Social Care Partnership said it had taken “every step” to find a provider for the Singleton Park site at Courance and that residents would be transferred to alternative facilities in the “coming weeks and months”.

### **Learning Disability**

#### [Two thirds cannot correctly identify a learning disability, charity research suggests](#)

Two thirds of people in the UK do not know what a learning disability is, according to research by Mencap. According to the charity, two thirds of people cannot correctly identify a learning disability as a reduced intellectual ability, with 40% of people thinking it’s dyslexia and 28% believing it to relate to a mental health issue. These figures rise the older people get, from 32% of 25-34 year olds considering dyslexia to be a learning disability to 50% for over 55s. Marking its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Mencap has launched its Talk To Me campaign and developed a set of tools and online resources to help with people’s lack of understanding of learning disability, including a pledge to stand up for the rights of people with a learning disability.

### **Mental Health**

#### [Latest AWI Act monitoring report published by Mental Welfare Commission](#)

The Mental Welfare Commission has published its latest annual report on safeguarding duties in relation to people who are subject to the protection of the Adults with Incapacity (Scotland) Act 2000 (AWI Act). According to the report, a total of 2,194 guardianship orders were granted in 2020-21, which was 30% fewer than in 2019-20. Before this, there had been a consistent year-on-year rise, averaging at 12% a year. The report suggests the year-on-year increase was significantly slowed by ‘stop the clock’ legal changes made in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. There still a slight increase in overall numbers, with 16,033 people subject to a guardianship order on 31 March 2021, compared to 15,973 on 31 March 2020.

#### [Mental health inpatient activity figures published by Public Health Scotland](#)

New figures on mental health inpatient activity have been published by Public Health Scotland. According to the statistics, there were 49,610 mental health discharges in 2020/21, a decrease of 6% from 2019/2020. People living in the most deprived areas



were around three times more likely to experience inpatient mental health care than people living in the least deprived areas. The most common diagnosis for mental health discharges was mental and behavioural disorders due to psychoactive substance use. Since 1997/1998, the number of patients treated in hospital for mood (affective) disorders has seen a steady decline from 7,040 to 2,830, a larger decrease than any other diagnostic group.

#### [New draft guidance on treating depression published by NICE](#)

New draft guidance on treating and managing depression in adults has been published by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE). An independent NICE guideline committee looked at evidence of the treatment of new depressive episodes, chronic depression, preventing relapse, patient choice, and the organisation of, and access to, mental health services. The new guidance includes a suite of treatment options, with people with less severe depression able to choose treatment options such as cognitive behavioural therapy, exercise, counselling or psychotherapy. Consultation on the guidance closes on 12 January.

#### **Other Health and Social Care**

#### [UWS-Oxfam report proposes new National Outcome on care](#)

A report proposing a new National Outcome on care for the National Performance Framework has been published by the University of the West of Scotland (UWS) and Oxfam Partnership. Using insights gained from research literature and practice around the world, the report proposes a National Outcome Statement, 'We fully value and invest in those experiencing care and all those providing it', alongside a series of 'Beacon Indicators' and 'sub-indicators' to measure progress. According to the report, adopting the new National Outcome alongside a robust monitoring framework would put Scotland "in a significantly improved position to measure whether it is valuing, and investing in all those experiencing and providing care".

#### [Call for people who access self-directed support to take part in research](#)

The Equalities and Human Rights Commission is looking to hear from people to increase understanding and awareness of issues relating to self-directed support (SDS). The Commission wants to speak to people who access SDS, families and unpaid carers of people accessing SDS, advocates and personal assistants. The research will look at achieving personal outcomes through SDS and how this relates to equality, as well as challenging decisions made by local authorities in relation to social care and support.

#### [Applications open for 21/22 TEC Tests of Change initiative](#)

Applications are now open for participation in Technology Enabled Care's 2021/22 Tests of Change initiative. This application round focuses specifically on building further digital innovation capacity within social care and social work, with the hope up to ten Stage 1 tests of change will be run in 2021/22. Applications are invited from any health and social care partnership/local authority, housing association, or



independent care or third sector organisation. Applications must be submitted to the by 16 December.

### **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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