



Adult^{and} Health

[Covid-19 - General](#)[Alcohol and Drugs](#)[Care Homes/Care at Home](#)[Older People](#)[Other Health & Social Care](#)[Workforce](#)**Covid-19 - General**[Spring Covid boosters begin](#)

From Monday 7 March, spring booster vaccinations will be offered to those aged 75 and over and people at highest risk of severe Covid. This includes residents in care homes for older adults and individuals aged 12 years and over who are immunosuppressed.

[Updated self-isolation guidance](#)

The Scottish Government has updated its guidance for those asked to self-isolate because of Covid, to update details on the self-isolation support grant. From 7 March, individuals are not required to isolate because they are not fully vaccinated but have themselves had a confirmed Covid infection in the last 28 days and have been identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive for Covid by the Test and Protect service.



[Draft terms of reference for UK Covid-19 inquiry published](#)

Draft terms of reference for the UK Covid-19 Inquiry have been published by the Cabinet Office. Following consultation with the Inquiry Chair, Baroness Hallett, and ministers in the devolved administrations, the draft terms of reference state that the inquiry will examine, consider and report on preparations and the response to the pandemic in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, up to and including the inquiry's formal setting-up date. In doing so, it will consider reserved and devolved matters across the United Kingdom, as necessary, but will seek to minimise duplication of investigation, evidence gathering and reporting with any other public inquiry established by the devolved administrations. A final terms of reference will be published once Baroness Hallett has consulted with the public, including with bereaved families and other affected groups. [The public engagement period is expected to last for four weeks.](#)

Alcohol and Drugs

[Implementing and evaluating minimum alcohol pricing](#)

Maree Todd MSP has written to the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee about the implementation of Minimum Unit Pricing (MUP), which came into force 1 May 2018, and its ongoing evaluation by Public Health Scotland (PHS). The letter notes that section 2 of the Alcohol (Minimum Pricing) (Scotland) Act 2012 provides that the minimum unit pricing provisions will cease to have effect 6 years after the Act came into force, unless an affirmative Order to continue those provisions is approved by Parliament. The letter also highlights that PHS carried out a study focusing on issues around compliance from the point of view of those responsible for inspection and enforcement of MUP in licensed premises. The [evaluation report](#) was published on 1 August 2019 and found that compliance among licensed premises was high.

[Drug related deaths have been rising steeply since 2013, according to new report](#)

Audit Scotland has published an update report of its review of drug and alcohol services in Scotland. The report notes that in 2020 there were 1,339 drug related deaths, the highest rate reported. The report highlights that alcohol deaths have been decreasing since the early 2000s but started to increase again around 10 years ago. The report also notes that Scottish Government funding to Alcohol and Drugs Partnerships (ADP) fell in the last few years but in 2020/21 returned to similar levels as that of 2015, with no real terms increase in funding.

Care Homes/Care at Home

[Debate on care home visiting rights](#)

The Scottish Labour Party has led a debate in the Scottish Parliament on Anne's Law, protecting the right of care home visiting. The Minister for Mental Wellbeing and Social Care, Kevin Stewart, in his contribution acknowledged that restricting care home visits early on had been one of the hardest decisions the government has had to take, and that Named Visitor Guidance was introduced last year as a first step to implementing the changes that are necessary. Mr Stewart also announced that new



strengthened statutory care standards will be introduced by the end of this month, which will ensure that visitors can be involved in the care and support of their loved ones and provide a strong emphasis on helping residents and their families remain connected.

[Scottish Care will host a webinar on Operation Koper on 21 March](#)

The Covid-19 Deaths Investigation Team (CDIT), also known as Operation Koper, was set up by the Crown Office to investigate Covid-19 linked deaths in care homes in Scotland. Scottish Care will be hosting a webinar on 21 March 2022 with staff from the Crown Office including the Senior Lead for this work, Stephen McGowan. The webinar will include an update on Operation Koper and members will also get the chance to ask any questions in a Q & A session. The webinar will be delivered via Microsoft Teams and is open to Scottish Care members. Members who wish to attend are required to register for the event.

[Early birds tickets available for care at home & housing support conference](#)

Early birds tickets for the care at home & housing support conference & exhibition 2022 will be available for purchase until 28 March 2022. The event will be held at Radisson Blu in Glasgow on 13 May 2022. This year's insight sessions include:

- Registration and regulation in services
- Mental health and wellness
- Homecare and housing support in an integrated environment
- Maximising technology in homecare services
- The National Care Service and homecare
- Recruitment hints and tips

Older People

[Consultation on older people strategy published](#)

A consultation on a health and social care strategy for older people has been launched by the Scottish Government. The Government aims to build on the Fairer Scotland for Older People framework which recognised that remaining active and engaged in communities is a clear priority for older people and that tackling social isolation and loneliness is fundamental to thriving in older age. The consultation will close on 19 June, with a final strategy to be published later in 2022.

Other Health and Social Care

[Analysis of the consultation on proposed updates to APC guidance](#)

The Scottish Government launched a consultation on its proposals for updating the Adult Support Protection Code of Practice and the corresponding Guidance for Adult Protection Committees from 6 July to 29 September 2021. A summary report of the consultation has now been published.



[Health and social care: national workforce strategy](#)

The Scottish Government and COSLA have published their vision for the health and social care workforce. The workforce strategy covers health and social care recovery, and the Five Pillars of the Workforce Journey – Plan, Attract, Train, Employ and Nurture. The approach to implementation and short term action plan for the next 24 months conclude the strategy.

[Government updates Build Back Better policy paper for health and social care \(England\)](#)

The Build Back Better paper sets out the UK Government's plan for health and social care, providing an overview of how the backlog of electives in the NHS will be tackled and sets out details of the plan for adult social care in England. The government has updated the adult social care charging reform: further details paper, adding a section on indexation of reform parameters to reflect that the level of the cap, the upper and lower capital limits, and the level of daily living costs will be reviewed and updated annually.

[Taking steps for future pandemic preparedness \(England\)](#)

A joint statement between the UK Government, Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) and industry associations representing vaccine manufacturers has been published by the Department of Health and Social Care. The statement sets out the specific steps needed to deliver on the 100 Days Mission, which aims to have safe and effective vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics within 100 days of an epidemic or pandemic threat being identified.

Workforce

[BASW publishes findings from its first annual survey of social workers](#)

The British Association of Social Workers (BASW) has published a summary report of its first annual survey of over 2000 social workers from across England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. The report states that seven out of ten (71.9%) respondents said that they feel unable to complete their work within their contracted hours, and of those respondents almost 25% reported working 10 or more additional hours per week with the majority of these hours being unpaid. The findings also suggest that the biggest challenges facing the profession currently and in the immediate future were considered to be the failure to adequately fund social care and cuts to local services.

[New study shows the impact of the pandemic on care home workers](#)

A study conducted by the University of the Highlands and Islands and Northumbria University suggests that there is a moral obligation to provide psychological support to care home staff as they continue to live with the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. The study took place over four months between January and May 2021, where academics surveyed 52 healthcare workers from Balhousie Care Group's 26 care homes, conducting follow-up interviews with thirteen. The study recommends 'safe



spaces' for healthcare workers to reflect on their pandemic experiences, a 'cultural shift' to acknowledge their contributions, and care home inspections that are supportive.

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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