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## Covid-19 - General

### [Findings published on the impact of Covid-19 pandemic](#)

The Scottish Government has published its findings from the fourth wave of a telephone survey commissioned to better understand the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on people in Scotland. The report suggests that many of the inequalities seen in the previous waves of the survey were evident again, noting that those in deprived areas, those on lower incomes, disabled people, and unpaid carers all fare worse across a number of measures. Wave 4 of the survey was conducted after a spike in cases resulting from the omicron variant in late December 2021/ early January 2022.

### [Chair of Pandemic Preparedness committee appointed](#)

The Scottish Government has announced the appointment of Professor Andrew Morris as Chair of the Scottish Government's Standing Committee on Pandemic Preparedness (SCoPP). The committee will discuss how it will fulfil the First Minister's commission to advise on how Scotland can be as prepared as possible to meet future pandemics. Members will prepare an initial report on priorities within six months, with a final report produced within a further 18 months.



## **Alcohol and Drugs**

### [£25 million for organisations working with those affected by drug use](#)

The Scottish Government has announced that over £25 million will be awarded to 77 initiatives working with people affected by drug use, over the next five years. Grants of more than £6 million in total have been allocated to 16 organisations providing residential rehabilitation and pre and post rehabilitation support to enable them to further enhance their services, over £10 million have been awarded to organisations who support people through recovery, and 23 projects working with children and families have received funding of almost £9.5 million.

### [Report on the Drug Death Reporting Short Life Working Group](#)

Public Health Scotland has published a report describing the purpose, process and meetings of the Drug Death Reporting Short Life Working Group (SLWG). The report notes that the number of people affected by drug-related deaths (DRD) in Scotland has grown exponentially which has increased the demand for timely and accurate DRD data to address the factors contributing to the increasing trend. The report makes recommendations around data collection including that summary statistics on drug-related deaths should be available within three to six months of the end of a reporting period. It also recommends that additional funding should be made available to Public Health Scotland (PHS) to deliver a timely and impactful National Drug-Related Death Database report.

### [Charity publishes progress report on new advocacy service](#)

The charity Favor UK has published its 6-month report on the progress of its drug and alcohol advocacy service which started in October 2021. The advocacy service, funded via the CORRA Foundation, aims to help those with a history of substance use problems to overcome barriers within the system. The report notes the challenges faced by the service to connect with some local ADRS and the disparities in how each local authority engages with the advocacy service. It also outlines some the barriers faced by those looking to access statutory services.

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

### [Winners from the annual care home awards 2021 announced](#)

Scottish Care announced the winners of the annual care home awards 2021 at their first in-person awards ceremony in over 2 years. The event took place Friday 1 April 2022 and was hosted by pop idol winner, Michelle McManus, and Scottish Care CEO, Dr Donald Macaskill. Award winners included Maya Hurding, who won the emerging talent award, Mary Welch received the outstanding achievement award, and Caledonian Korsakoffs Unit (Hillside view care home) received the specialist service/ unit of the year award. The rest of the winners and more information on the finalists can be found [here](#).



### [Updated visiting guidance for adult care homes](#)

The Scottish Government has updated its visiting guidance for adult care homes with links to Public Health Scotland's (PHS) updated [Covid-19: information and guidance for care home settings \(for older adults\)](#). The updated PHS guidance includes additional information on spring boosters, named visitor initiative which now includes up to three named visitors, and a new section with information on outward visits during an outbreak. The updated guidance notes that during an outbreak it may be possible for residents to have visits with friends or family out with care home grounds following a risk assessment by the care home manager.

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

#### [Minister outlines approach to increase carers allowance supplement](#)

The Minister for Social Security and Local Government has written to the convener of the Social Justice and Social Security Committee outlining the government's approach to uprate the Carer's Allowance Supplement. The Minister notes that to meet the commitment to uprate Carer's Allowance Supplement by 6%, the rate of jobseeker's allowance calculated for 2021-22 (£76.50) will be used and uprated by 3.45%. This proposed approach will ensure an overall Carer's Allowance Supplement rate of £245.70 for the 2022-23 financial year, an increase of 6% on the previous year.

#### [New members appointed to the Scottish Charity Regulator](#)

The Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing and Local Government has announced the appointment of Lynn Bradley, Kirsten Howie, Neil Mackay, William Maxwell and Robin Strang as members of the Scottish Charity Regulator

#### [COSLA responds to Government's Spending Review Framework Consultation](#)

COSLA has published its response to the Scottish Government's Spending Review Framework consultation, noting the need to focus on greater investment upstream in order to reduce demand on health and social care services. COSLA's response noted that local government has suffered the brunt of funding pressure for over a decade, and states that there are "clear signs that health inequalities are worsening, however, funding to address this must be sustainable and not at the expense of core local government funding."

#### [Royal College of Nursing re-joins the International Council of Nurses](#)

The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) has announced that they have officially re-joined the International Council of Nurses (ICN), a federation of more than 130 nursing organisations that represent 28 million nurses worldwide. The RCN left the federation in 2013 and are now working closely with the ICN on the application to re-join and ensure members' expectations are met.



### [Royal College of Nurses hosts roundtable event on valuing nursing](#)

The roundtable event, hosted by the Royal College of Nurses (RCN), followed the publication of the RCN's first [Nursing Workforce in Scotland Report](#), which contains a new analysis of nursing workforce data and the challenges facing workforce planning. The event brought together members from different professional backgrounds to speak with the Cabinet Secretary of Health and Social Care, Humza Yousaf MSP, and key opposition MSPs including Jackie Baillie (Labour), Craig Hoy (Conservative), Alex Cole-Hamilton (Liberal Democrats) and Gillian Mackay (Greens).

### [Leadership course for people with learning disabilities](#)

People with learning disabilities can now apply for a place in the fourth 'Our Future Leaders' course, a leadership course created for people with a learning disability. The course was developed by Inspiring Scotland and the Scottish Commission for People with Learning Disabilities (SCLD) and will run from 31 May 2022 to 11 October 2022. The course will be delivered on Zoom by external trainers selected by Inspiring Scotland and SCLD. Course participants must have a sponsor, who will work alongside their participant, providing feedback and helping them to work through the course. The deadline for applications is 5pm on Friday 29 April.

### [Health and Social Care Levy comes into effect from 6 April \(England\)](#)

The UK government announced that from 6 April, the Health and Social Care Levy will come into effect and begin to raise billions to help tackle the Covid backlogs and reform the adult social care system. The levy is expected to raise £39 billion to be invested in health and social care over the next 3 years. This means the NHS budget will increase to over £160 billion in 2024 to 2025. The government said that the funding will help deliver around 30% more elective activity in 3 years' time than before the pandemic and deliver 17 million more diagnostic tests over the next 3 years.

### [Dedicated funding for health and social care workforce \(England\)](#)

The UK government announced that those working in adult social care in England will benefit from at least £500 million from the Health and Social Care Levy to improve recruitment, retention, progression, and staff wellbeing. This will include continuous professional development budgets for registered nurses, nursing associates, occupational therapists and other allied health professionals, and investment in social worker training.

**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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