

[Covid-19 - General](#)[Alcohol and Drugs](#)[Care Homes/Care at Home](#)[Disabilities](#)[Infection Prevention and Control](#)[Justice](#)[Mental Health](#)[Workforce](#)[Other Health & Social Care](#)**Covid-19 - General**[Latest state of the Covid-19 epidemic report published](#)

The latest state of the Covid epidemic report has been published by the Scottish Government. According to the report, the R value is estimated as being between 0.8 and 1.0, with an estimated number of daily infections in Scotland of between 348 and 1,032 per 100,000 people. In the week leading up to 10 April, the overall number of Covid deaths decreased by 19% to a total of 139 deaths compared with the previous week.

Alcohol and Drugs[Compendium of research on alcohol and drugs workforce published](#)

A compendium of mixed methods research on the alcohol and drugs workforce has been published by the Scottish Government. The reports were commissioned by the Scottish Government and intended to provide an insight into the current challenges and issues faced by drug and alcohol services and the staff who form the workforce delivering the services. Key issues identified include recruitment challenges, retention of staff, and service design.



Care Homes/Care at Home

[Scottish Care announces launch of digital innovation challenge](#)

Scottish Care has announced the launch of the 'Shaping Digital Health & Social Care' Innovation Challenge, inviting SMEs and technology entrepreneurs to share ideas to address challenges sector. The innovation challenge is the first of its kind from S5GConnect, part of Scotland's 5G Centre's series of innovation hubs, and is supported by the Dumfries and Galloway Health and Social Care Partnership and Scottish Care. Three challenges have been identified and companies entering the challenge are required to highlight a solution that addresses one of these challenges.

Disabilities

[Proposed Bill to improve transitions into adulthood for disabled children](#)

Proposed legislation designed to improve opportunities for disabled children and young people as they transition into adulthood has been introduced by Labour MSP Pam Duncan-Glancy. The Disabled Children and Young People (Transitions to Adulthood) (Scotland) Bill, if passed, would require:

- the Scottish Government to have a strategy explaining how they are going to improve opportunities for disabled children and young people and
- a Scottish Government minister to be in charge of improving opportunities for disabled children and young people moving into adulthood
- local authorities to have plans for each disabled child and young person as they move into adulthood.

Infection Prevention and Control

[Findings from review of infection prevention and control definitions and guidance](#)

The Royal College of Nursing (RNC) has published the findings from an independent review of national and international guidelines which aimed to identify and compare international definitions used in infection prevention and control guidance. The key findings from the report suggest that confusion might exist because IPC teams have interpreted and implemented the guidelines differently, and that current IPC guidance does not appear to align with the World Health Organization definition of how Covid is transmitted.

Justice

[Scottish Government responds to recommendations on misogyny and justice](#)

The Scottish Government has published its response to the report of the Independent Working Group on Misogyny and Criminal Justice. The Working Group, chaired by Helena Kennedy, recommended three new offences and a sentencing aggravation relating to misogynistic conduct. The Scottish Government has



accepted the proposals and will consult on provisions prior to a Bill being introduced in the Scottish Parliament.

Mental Health

[Mental health awareness week 2022](#)

Mental health awareness week will take place between 9 May to 15 May this year and will focus on loneliness. The event is hosted by the Mental Health Foundation, with this year's event raising awareness of the impact loneliness has on mental wellbeing and the practical steps that can help address it.

Workforce

[Consultation on draft quality framework for nurse agencies](#)

A draft quality framework for nurse agencies has been launched for consultation by the Care Inspectorate. Our framework has been developed in consultation with providers and learning from the development and review of our quality frameworks across a range of sectors. The quality framework is designed for use in self-evaluation, inspection, and improvement support, and draws heavily on outcomes for those using the service (organisations and individuals) and the Health and Social Care Standards. The deadline for responses is 8 May.

[New SSSC web page and updated guidance on recognition of prior learning](#)

Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has announced a new web page and updated guidance on recognition of prior learning. This has been developed in order to help people understand what prior learning is and what counts as prior learning when working towards the qualifications needed for SSSC registration.

[Applications open for SSSC Leading for the Future programme](#)

Applications are now open for the 2022-23 Leading for the Future programme, the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has announced. The 10 month programme is designed specifically for those in senior leadership positions to help build leadership capacity in health and social care. The deadline for applications is 9 May.

[Funded cohorts for Technology Enhanced Learning Train the Trainer programme](#)

NHS Education for Scotland (NES) is funding two cohorts of a Technology Enhanced Learning - Train the Trainer programme. The programme is introductory level and lets health and care staff, who design and deliver training, experience the course from the view of the learner, and deliver the programme themselves. Applications are open for the first cohort, starting in May.



[Royal College of Nurses to host education forum virtual conference](#)

The Royal College of Nurses (RCN) education forum virtual conference and exhibitions will be hosted online from 26 April to 27 April this year. The event will include keynote presentations, talks and debates.

Other Health and Social Care

[Consultation on proposed changes to the local financial return](#)

The Scottish Government have launched a consultation on proposed changes to the Local Financial Return (LFR) 03 which is being considered for implementation in the 2021/22 LFRs. The LFR 03 captures data relating to social work and is currently the main source of social care expenditure data available in Scotland. The consultation closes 3 June 2022.

[Carers Scotland publishes briefings to inform new carers strategy](#)

A series of briefings to inform the forthcoming development of a new carers strategy has been published by Carers Scotland. The briefings have been developed by the National Carer Organisations and cover a wide range of topics, such as social care, short breaks and carers as equal partners.

[Self-Management Fund open for applications from third sector organisations](#)

The ALLIANCE has announced that its Self-Management Fund is now open for applications until 27 June. Third sector and community organisations in Scotland can now apply for grants of up to £60,000 for up to two years to support people living with long term conditions, people living with disabilities and unpaid carers. The fund is administered by the ALLIANCE on behalf of the Scottish Government.

[ALLIANCE Annual Conference 2022 - 6-10 June](#)

The ALLIANCE has announced that its Annual Conference will take place between 6 – 10 June, exploring health and social care across Scotland and its communities. Registration opens soon for the event, which will take place online and include podcasts, webinars, workshops, and panel discussions.

**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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