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Covid-19 - General

[Proposed changes to UK Covid inquiry terms of reference](#)

The Chair of the UK Covid-19 Public Inquiry has written to the Prime Minister with proposed changes to the inquiry's terms of reference. Following a four-week consultation, Baroness Hallett has asked the Prime Minister to expand the terms of reference to include:

- children and young people, including impact on health, wellbeing and social care education and early years provision
- impacts on mental health and wellbeing
- collaboration between central government, devolved administrations, local authorities and the voluntary and community sector.

Baroness Hallett has also recommended that the terms of reference be reframed to put inequalities at its forefront.

[Coronavirus \(Recovery and Reform\) Bill passed at Stage 1](#)

Legislation designed to embed measures that have demonstrated their value during the pandemic and to counter



future public health threats has been passed by MSPs at Stage 1 of the parliamentary process. Measures in the Coronavirus (Recovery and Reform) (Scotland) Bill include permanent provision for the Care Inspectorate to send formal notices to registered care service providers by electronic means. The Bill will now move to Stage 2.

[App for people with Long Covid launched](#)

Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS) has launched an app that people with Long Covid can use to access the best available evidence for diagnosis and treatment. Two versions of the app have been produced in partnership with the Digital Health and Care Institute and the Right Decision Service, including one for clinicians and one for members of the public.

[PPE distribution statistics will no longer be updated](#)

The Scottish Government has announced that monthly updates on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) distribution statistics will no longer be published. The change is due to the stable stock position of PPE and the reduced number of queries regarding supply.

Care Homes/Care at Home

[Care Home Census to open on 20 May](#)

The Scottish Care Home Census 2021-22 will open on 20 May, with services able to complete this through the Care Inspectorate eForms system. The census will be available to complete until 1 July 2022. Further detail and guidance notes for this year's form are available.

[Additional funding announced to expand Hospital at Home services](#)

The Scottish Government has announced that an additional £3.6m will be made available to expand Hospital at Home services, with the aim of doubling the current capacity of the service by the end of this year. The purpose of the service is to reduce hospital admissions for older patients by providing treatments in the comfort of their own home. Since 2020, a total of £8.1m has been invested in the services.

Disabilities

[Consultation on proposed Bill to establish a disability commissioner in Scotland](#)

A consultation has been launched on a proposed Bill that would establish a Disability Commissioner in Scotland. Conservative MSP Jeremy Balfour is seeking views on a proposed Disability Commissioner (Scotland) Bill, which would establish a Disability Commissioner following a similar model as the Children and Young People Commissioner that was established in 2004. The Commissioner would be the first port of call for people with a disability who face issues that cut across a number of policy areas and require a number of actions. The consultation closes on 3 August.



Free Personal Care

[Statistics published on the number of people receiving free personal care](#)

The Scottish Government has published data on the number of people receiving free personal care and free nursing care in Scotland. According to the statistical release, in 2020/21 there were 28,120 long stay residents aged 65 and over in care homes in Scotland, 8% less than in 2019/2020. There were 49,780 people aged 65 and over who received care at home in 2020/21. It is estimated that free personal care and free nursing care payments to self-funding care home residents aged 65 and over cost local authorities £129 million in 2020/21.

[Statistics published on Frank's Law](#)

Statistics on Frank's Law, which extended free personal care (FPC) to people under the age of 65 in 2019, have been published by the Scottish Government. According to the data:

- 120 self-funding residents aged 18-64 in care homes received FPC payments in the last quarter of 2020-21
- the number of people aged 18-64 receiving personal care at home has increased since the extension
- an estimated £2.2 million has been spent through FPC payments to self-funding care home residents aged 18-64 since April 2019.

[Latest figures on social care eligibility criteria and waiting times](#)

The Scottish Government has published data on new clients meeting eligibility criteria for social care support and waiting times between first contact, completion of a community care assessment and delivery of a new personal care service. Rates of older clients (aged 65 and over) receiving a new personal care service increased, from 6.8 per 1,000 population in 2012, to a peak of 10.1 in 2018, before falling back to 6.7 in 2021 (Based on 15 local authorities). Rates of younger clients (aged 18 to 64) recorded as being new personal clients was considerably lower, less than 1 per 1,000 population, than for older people (Based on 20 local authorities).

Healthcare and Nursing

[HIS publishes scrutiny activity plan for 2022-23](#)

Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS) has published its scrutiny activity plan for 2022-23. Activity in the plan is split into three categories: inspection, regulation and review, and includes reference to joint inspections conducted alongside the Care Inspectorate.

[Global report on infection prevention and control published by WHO](#)

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has published its first global report on infection prevention and control (IPC). The report provides an analysis of how IPC



programmes are being implemented in countries around the world. It notes that high-income countries are more likely to progress their IPC work than low-income countries.

[New insights report on nursing in social care marks International Nurses Day](#)

A report providing an insight into nursing in social care has been published by Scottish Care to mark International Nurses Day. The report captures the experience of frontline registered nurses working in the independent social care sector in Scotland, and identifies four areas of particular expertise, described in the report as Principles of Practice, which help to define and describe nursing in social care.

[Nursing and Midwifery Council publishes latest corporate plan](#)

The Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) has published its latest corporate plan, setting out key priorities for the next year. The plan notes that reducing fitness to practise caseload remains a top priority and that the NMC will also focus on modernising its regulatory processes.

[Additional pharmacists to undergo training in independent prescribing](#)

NHS Education for Scotland (NES) has announced that it will fund 186 additional places for community, hospital, and primary care pharmacists to undertake training in independent prescribing. The additional places will go to pharmacists working in Scotland who were already on the 2021-22 waiting list.

Human Rights

[Centre of Expertise in Equality and Human Rights to be established](#)

A new Centre of Expertise in Equality and Human Rights is being established, the Scottish Government has confirmed. The Centre, which forms one of the actions of the National Strategy for Economic Transformation, will build knowledge and skills among policy officials to address injustice and economic inequality.

[SHRC in human rights reform warning](#)

The Scottish Human Rights Commission (SHRC) has warned against the UK Government's plans to reform human rights legislation. Giving evidence to Westminster's Joint Committee on Human Rights, SHRC Head of Legal and Policy Barbara Bolton argued that plans for a new bill of rights could pose a barrier to accessing justice and warned that little consideration had been given to the possible impact on the remit of the Scottish Government.

Justice

[Consultation on improving victims' experiences of the justice system](#)

A consultation on improving victims' experiences of the justice system, with a particular focus on sexual offences, has been launched by the Scottish Government.



The consultation, which follows publication of the Scottish Government's Vision for Justice in Scotland, seeks views on a range of proposals, including: options to underpin a trauma-informed and person-centred approach across the justice system; special measures to assist vulnerable parties involved in civil cases; new statutory underpinning for anonymity for complainers in sexual offence cases; and the potential establishment of a new specialist criminal court dealing with serious sexual offences. The call for views closes on 5 August.

[Revised national guidance on bail supervision](#)

Revised national guidance for the operation of bail supervision has been published by the Scottish Government. The guidance is intended for use by local authority justice social work services and other key partners involved in bail supervision service delivery, setting out standards and expectations to support the consistent delivery of the service across Scotland.

Mental Health

[Mental Health Awareness Week 9-15 May](#)

Mental Health Awareness Week is ongoing and continues until 15 May. Hosted by the Mental Health Foundation, this year the campaign is raising awareness of the impact of loneliness on mental health with one in four adults feeling lonely some or all of the time. The Foundation hopes to give people practical steps that can be taken to address loneliness.

[SASW highlights impact of pressures on social worker mental health](#)

The Scottish Association of Social Workers (SASW) has highlighted a meeting with Social Care Minister Kevin Stewart in response to recent surveys showing the impact pressures are having on the mental health of social workers. According to SASW, Mr Stewart made clear that the Scottish Government intended to act urgently on this matter and not wait until the establishment of the National Care Service. Mr Stewart highlighted his key priorities are to grow the workforce and provide more autonomy for social workers.

[Lived Experience Panel for those impacted by an eating disorder](#)

The Scottish Government has launched a call for organisations to establish and manage a Lived Experience Panel for those who have been impacted by an eating disorder. The panel will support the delivery of the recommendations set out in the National Review of Eating Disorder Services. An application form and guidance has been published noting that the panel is expected to engage with the wider Mental Health Lived Experience Panel which is co-ordinated by the Mental Health Foundation and the ALLIANCE.

[£15m awarded to Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund](#)

The Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund for adults has been awarded an additional £15m in funding to allow the fund to continue for another year, the



Scottish Government has confirmed. The fund was launched in October last year to tackle social isolation, loneliness and mental health inequalities made worse by the pandemic. Since it was launched, the fund has helped nearly 2000 community projects to deliver activities and programmes, covering a wide range of groups such as older people, people with long term health conditions and disabilities, people living in rural areas and the LGBT community.

Older People

[220,000 older households will struggle to cover essential spending, says charity](#)

Around 220,000 older households in Scotland will not have the necessary income to cover their essential spending this year, according to an analysis by Age UK. The charity has warned that rising bills, inflation, and increased cost of living will continue to push older people into poverty, poorer health and financial insecurity this year, and has called on the Scottish, UK and local governments to take action to help older people to cover essential spending.

Other Health and Social Care

[Care Inspectorate Corporate Plan 2022-25 published](#)

Our Corporate Plan sets out our vision, the outcomes we want to achieve and our priorities for the next three years. It is informed by all we learned during the pandemic, and by the scrutiny, assurance, quality improvement work and partnership working we have done over the last three years. We carried out extensive consultation with our staff, our volunteers, providers, partnerships and people who experience care, to shape a Plan that puts people at the heart of all we do with key priorities that are ambitious but achievable.

[CCPS announces new Chief Executive](#)

The Coalition of Care and Support Providers (CCPS) has announced that Rachel Cackett will be joining the organisation as its new Chief Executive in July. Ms Cackett, Executive Director in Scotland for Samaritans since January 2020, will take up the role after Annie Gunner Logan stepped down after 24 years of service.

[New ethical commissioning course launched by Iriss](#)

Iriss has launched a new online course on ethical commissioning in social care. The course is aimed at commissioners, those involved in procurement, integration joint boards, or social care service management. The course will provide staff with the tools and resources to help apply ethical principles when planning and purchasing adult social care and support services.

[Specialist leadership development programme launched](#)

A new specialist leadership development programme for senior leaders working within social care, social work and health has been launched by Project Life. Supported by the Scottish Government, the programme is inviting sponsored



applications for cohort one between now and 13 June and will run between September 2022 and May 2023.

[Integration authorities budget information for 2022-23](#)

Information on the budgets of integration authorities over the coming year has been published by Health and Social Care Scotland. The information is accurate as at 29 April 2022.

[Health and care experience survey results published](#)

The Scottish Government has published the results of the health and care experience survey 2021/22. The survey asked about people's experiences of accessing and using GP practices and other local healthcare services, receiving care, support and help with everyday living, and caring responsibilities. The report notes that 10% of respondents said that they had received some form of support for everyday living in the last 12 months and 3% said that they had not received any support but felt they needed it. The report also noted that most of those who said they needed help with everyday living said they or their family funded this, or they received unpaid care from friends and family carers.

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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