



20 May – 27 May



bulletin



Adult and Health

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Covid-19 - General

[Long Covid projects have been awarded £3 million in funding](#)

The Scottish Government announced that £3 million will be awarded to projects to improve the care and support available for people with long Covid. The funding will support boards to introduce care co-ordinator roles, extra resource to support a patient-centred assessment, including a multi-disciplinary assessment service, and additional capacity for community rehabilitation to support people with issues affecting their day-to-day quality of life.

[Covid-19 autumn booster dose for vulnerable adults](#)

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) has provided interim advice to the UK government on Covid-19 booster doses for this autumn. The JCVI have advised that an autumn Covid-19 vaccine should be offered to residents in a care home for older adults and staff working in care homes for older adults, frontline health and social care workers, all those aged 65 and over, and adults aged 16-64 who are in a clinical risk group.



[Scottish Covid-19 Public Inquiry has been set up and officially launched](#)

The Scottish Covid-19 Public Inquiry has been publicly launched alongside a dedicated website. The website includes an introduction to Lady Pool, chair of the inquiry, a Q&A section where the chair answers key questions, and an easy read version of the inquiry's aims. The website also notes that as part of the planning process, the inquiry commissioned scoping research to assist with decisions about the shape and direction of its investigation. The academic scoping research will be published on the website in the coming weeks.

[New report suggests digital devices have supported those shielding to cope with restrictions](#)

The Scottish Government has published a report evaluating the impact of the Connecting Scotland programme in the first phase of delivery. The programme was set up to provide digital devices and support to people on low incomes who are digitally excluded. The report notes that the aims of the programme for phase 1 have largely been met. It states that the evaluation of the first phase shows that the programme has increased digital skills and confidence and supported those shielding to cope with the severe social restrictions resulting from Covid-19.

[Updated guidance on building-based day services has been published](#)

The Scottish Government has updated its Covid-19 guidance on adult social care building-based day services. The updated guidance is designed to support the safe re-opening and delivery of building-based day services for adults and notes that building-based day services should return to pre-pandemic capacity wherever possible, while operating safely in line with Covid-19 guidance. Service users are advised to follow 'Covid sense' when accessing services.

Alcohol and Drugs

[The Proposed Drugs Death Prevention \(Scotland\) Bill has been lodged](#)

Paul Sweeney has lodged the Proposed Drugs Death Prevention (Scotland) Bill. A consultation document for the Bill has also been published. The proposed Bill looks to enable the establishment of overdose prevention centres, including establishing a licensing framework for centres, in order to prevent death due to drug overdose. The Bill also looks to create a new body for the oversight of drug policy development and implementation. The consultation will close on Wednesday 17 August.

Alzheimer's/Dementia

[Alzheimer Scotland are hosting a Dementia Awareness Week webinar](#)

The charity is hosting a special Dementia Awareness Week webinar on Tuesday 31 May. The session will be hosted on Microsoft Teams and is aimed at health and social care professionals, people with dementia and their carers and families, and post diagnostic support workers.



Care Homes/Care at Home

[Kevin Stewart responds to questions regarding support for care homes](#)

Responding to a question regarding additional support for care homes to prevent closures as a result of the cost of living, the Minister for Mental Wellbeing and Social Care, Kevin Stewart, said that the government is aware of the pressures on all sectors. He noted that the government has funded an increase in the minimum hourly rate for those providing direct adult social care to £10.50 p/h and that by the end of this Parliament the government will have budgeted over £800 million of increased annual support for social care compared to current spending.

Workforce

[RCN Scotland raise concerns over staffing pressures caused by long Covid](#)

The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) has published its parliamentary briefing for the Scottish Government long Covid debate. The briefing notes that RCN Scotland doesn't hold a position on what model is best suited to treat long Covid but notes that RCN Scotland is concerned that insufficient consideration has been given to workforce requirements for treating long Covid, and that there is a risk that long Covid will disrupt efforts to remobilise health and social care.

Mental Health

[BASW call for views on National Mental Health and Wellbeing Plan \(England\)](#)

The British Association of Social Workers (BASW) has invited its members to help shape BASW England's response to the National Mental Health and Wellbeing Plan. The Department of Health and Social Care have published a discussion paper seeking views to help develop a new long-term mental health plan. BASW will hold a special online workshop on 9 June and have launched a survey for its members to contribute to their response.

Older People

[Two new organisations join partnership for older veterans](#)

Age Scotland announced that Unforgotten Forces, a partnership which is co-ordinated by the charity, has welcomed two new organisations to expand its work with older members of the ex-service community. The two new organisations are soldiers, sailors, airman and families association (SSAFA) and veterans tribe Scotland.



[Charity welcomes additional support for older people to help with rising energy bills](#)

Age Scotland has welcomed the announcement that the lowest income older households across Scotland are to receive additional support of over £1,000 to help with rising energy bills. The charity is also encouraging older people to call their helpline to check their eligibility and ensure they are claiming everything they are entitled to.

Other Health and Social Care

[National roll out of annual health checks for over 16s with a learning disability](#)

Kevin Stewart, Minister for Mental Wellbeing and Social Care, has written to the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee informing them of the roll out of annual health checks for anyone over the age of 16 with a learning disability. He noted that £2million per year will now be allocated to NHS Boards to implement annual checks for people with learning disabilities across Scotland. This will begin this financial year. The Scottish Government expects that by 31 March 2023 all known adults with learning disabilities will have been offered their first annual check and that the majority will have had one completed.

[New guidance published for Adult Protection Committees](#)

The Scottish Government has published new guidance for Adult Protection Committees (APCs) to use when considering and undertaking learning reviews. The guidance is primarily intended for members of APCs, but it is also relevant to Chief Officer Groups, the Care Inspectorate, and a wide range of agencies. The new guidance replaces the Interim National Framework for Adult Protection Committees for Conducting a Significant Case Review (2019). An overarching learning review process has replaced the previous process involving initial and significant case reviews.

[Keeping Care Close to Home debate](#)

In his opening speech for Keeping Care Close to Home debate, the Minister for Mental Wellbeing and Social Care, outlined the steps taken to deliver community and home-based care services. He noted the work of the Redesign of Urgent Care programme, increasing 'see and treat' services by the Scottish Ambulance Service, increasing availability of digital mental health support, and expanding telecare support.

[BASW has published a general update on social work and the war in Ukraine](#)

The British Association of Social Workers (BASW) has published an update on the work of social workers in Ukraine. It provides a round up of from the last three weeks on the Ukraine situation and includes information from social work staff who are working on the borders. It notes that the BASW's international development fund (IDF) has donated £10,000 to the international federation of social workers (IFSW) Europe which has coordinated medical supplies and other equipment to be delivered via social workers in Ukraine.



[Public Health Scotland appoint new director for data and digital innovation](#)

Public Health Scotland (PHS) has appointed Scott Heald as their new director of data and digital innovation. Scott was the interim director for the last 10 months and his appointment begins with immediate effect. He will also continue in his role as head of profession for statistics.

[NES has published its year in review for 2021](#)

NHS Education for Scotland (NES) have published a summary of its work in 2021. In its 'year in review 2021', NES present some of its highlights from the past year. It highlights key areas of work such as helping to plan over 12 million vaccinations through its vaccine app, promoting the role of the healthcare support worker in allied health professions, and providing support to over 80,000 nurses and care home workers.

[Local Government Overview 2022 highlights the challenges facing local councils](#)

The Accounts Commission has published its 2022 Local Government Overview noting that local government leaders face a challenging environment as they plan for recovery and renewal. It notes that in addition to responding to the pandemic, councils have faced other challenges such as dealing with increased demands and backlogs. It also notes the difficult and uncertain strategic context that councils are operating in, including facing longer-term financial pressures, uncertainty over long-term funding, and the prospect of major service reforms.

[SPICe briefing on the social work sector and the proposed National Care Service](#)

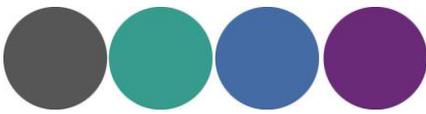
SPICe have published a briefing describing how social work is organised, planned, and delivered in Scotland. It includes key legislation and the policy context for social work, and the current organisation and delivery of social work services. The briefing also includes the issues and challenges within the sector, noting limited financial resources as one of the biggest challenges.

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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