




Adult and Health



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Covid-19 - General

[Public Health Scotland confirms changes to reporting of Covid-19 data](#)

Public Health Scotland (PHS) has confirmed that it will move to weekly Covid-19 reporting as of Wednesday 8 June. This follows changes made to the testing policy in Scotland which has reduced the quality and quantity of available daily data. PHS noted that this is “more typical for respiratory infection surveillance and more appropriate as Scotland transitions from the emergency response phase of the pandemic to living with endemic Covid-19”.

[UK Government responds to committee report on its preparedness for Covid-19](#)

The Public Accounts Committee has published the UK Government's response to its report on the Government's preparedness for the Covid-19 pandemic: lessons for government risk, which was published on 23 March 2022. The Government's response notes the recommendations made by the Public Account Committee in its original report and provides information on the Government's progress on these recommendations.



[Report identifies those at highest risk of illness from Covid-19 \(England\)](#)

An independent advisory group report, commissioned by the Department of Health and Social Care, has identified which patient groups are at highest risk of serious illness from Covid-19 and would benefit from new treatments. The recommendations set out in the report have supported the roll out of Covid-19 treatments in community settings, including antivirals.

Alcohol and Drugs

[Evidence review identifies gaps in research relating to residential rehabilitation](#)

The Scottish Government has published a review of existing evidence relating to aspects of residential rehabilitation. The review is made up of evidence from Scottish, UK, and international literature and identifies areas where there is a need for future research. Key findings from the review suggest that residential rehabilitation is associated with improvements across a variety of outcomes relating to substance use, health and quality of life. The review also notes that there are a number of areas that still remain under-researched, particularly within the Scottish context. Drugs Policy Minister, Angela Constance, said that the findings of the review are encouraging and support the Government's decision to allocate [£100 million to residential rehabilitation over the course of this parliament](#).

[Proposed Right to Addiction Recovery \(Scotland\) Bill has been lodged](#)

A final proposal for the Proposed Right to Addiction Recovery (Scotland) Bill was lodged on 30 May 2022. The Bill looks to enable people who are addicted to drugs and/or alcohol to access the necessary addiction treatments they require. A [summary of the consultation](#) of the Bill has also been published. The consultation analysis notes that the majority of responses supported the proposed Bill.

Alzheimer's/Dementia

[People living with dementia invited to join panel to shape policy and delivery](#)

The Scottish Government has invited those living with dementia to join a new dementia advisory panel to help shape policy and delivery. The Government announced that the national, independent group will also be open to unpaid carers to ensure that the Government fully considers the impact of policy and funding decisions on those who experience them first hand. It is expected that the panel will be established before the end of the year.

Care Homes/Care at Home

[Updated Open with Care guidance for adult care homes](#)

New guidance on visiting in adult care homes has been published by the Scottish Government. The guidance states that the Government expects care homes to support visiting and outings for all their residents. It notes that there shouldn't be any restrictions on the frequency and length of visits into or out of the care home unless



there is an active outbreak. The guidance also notes that where there is an outbreak, residents should still be supported to stay connected with people important to them through their named visitors. The Government has also announced that the Care Inspectorate will receive an additional [£186,000 this year and £90,000 in 2023 to support visiting rights.](#)

[Iriss publishes new guide on research in care homes for staff](#)

Iriss has published a new guide to help care home staff develop their understanding of what is involved in research in care homes. Enabling Research in Care Homes (ENRICH) Scotland was commissioned to produce the guide which includes six sections covering the various activities involved in research, the benefits, challenges and practicalities of care home research, interviews with researchers and care home staff, the importance of the involvement of people with lived experience of research, and how care home staff can get involved in research.

[Scottish Care campaign for additional National Outcome on care](#)

Scottish Care and partner organisations have launched a campaign calling on the Scottish Government to add a dedicated National Outcome on care to fully value and invest in those experiencing care and those providing. Scottish Care has also invited organisations to attend an online webinar on Wednesday 8 June 2022 which will provide further information on the campaign.

[Scottish Government announces changes to Covid-19 care home reporting](#)

The Scottish Government has announced that from Wednesday 1 June it will no longer publish weekly additional data on Covid-19 in adult care homes. Information on sources of Covid-19 data relating to care homes can be found on the Scottish Government's Covid-19 data signposting page.

Justice

[New restorative justice services to put victims at the heart of the justice system](#)

Two new national hubs have been launched paving the way for restorative justice services to be rolled out across Scotland. This includes the new National Hub within Community Justice Scotland which will have a strategic oversight role and will manage the delivery of an initial test project in the Edinburgh, Lothian and Borders area. A Thriving Survivors hub is also being set up to offer a safe, trauma informed service to support cases involving sexual harm.

Workforce

[BASW announce the next meeting of the Social Work Policy Panel](#)

The British Association of Social Workers (BASW) will host its next meeting of the Social Work Policy Panel on Tuesday 7 June. The theme of this meeting will be 'Professional social work now and in the future' and will include input from the Scottish Government about its ambition for social work in the National Care Service.



BASW has invited all front-line social workers and social work students to attend the meetings and contribute.

[Research findings recommends indicative case load limits for social workers](#)

Social Work Scotland has published the findings from its research into the public sector social care workforce and caseload management. The report notes the significant challenges faced by social work departments due to the financial pressures and the cost of implementing new pieces of legislation simultaneously. It also states that the size of the social workforce in Scotland has remained relatively unchanged in recent years, noting that administrative support has decreased by over a third. It recommends introducing indicative caseload limits of a maximum of 15 cases (children) for children and families social workers and a maximum of 20-25 cases for adult social workers and criminal justice social workers.

Other Health and Social Care

[Remote and rural festival of learning to take place on the Isle of Skye](#)

NHS Education for Scotland (NES) has announced that a new remote and rural festival of learning will take place on the Isle of Skye from 19-30 September 2022. The festival will support the development of the National Centre for Remote and Rural Health and Social Care, which NES is leading on. It is proposed that the Centre will be launched in spring 2023. The Centre will support general practice, primary care and clinical practice in community hospitals, rural general hospitals, community teams and the wider project of health and social care integration.

[Resource Spending Review 2022 published by Scottish Government](#)

Kate Forbes, Finance and Economy Secretary, delivered a statement on the Scottish Government's [Resource Spending Review 2022](#) detailing how the Government will invest over £180 billion to deliver on its key priorities over the coming years. A [Medium-Term Financial Strategy](#) has also been published which sets out the medium-term economic and fiscal outlook and provides the context for the Scottish Government's spending decisions.

[Call for evidence on the National Disability Strategy \(England\)](#)

The Women and Equalities Committee is scrutinising the implementation and further development of the National Disability Strategy and has launched a call for evidence. The committee is looking to hear from as many people as possible, especially disabled people. The deadline for submissions is Sunday 24 July 2022.

[Defence Committee seeks views of veterans and the families of veterans \(England\)](#)

The Defence Committee has launched an online survey seeking the views of veterans and their families ahead of its evidence hearing on the work of the Office for Veterans Affairs. The online survey is open until Wednesday 8 June. The Chair of the Defence Committee said, "we want to help veterans' voices be heard on



issues that concern them, whether it's mental or physical health, transition to civilian life and support in finding a job, or the complaints system”.

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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