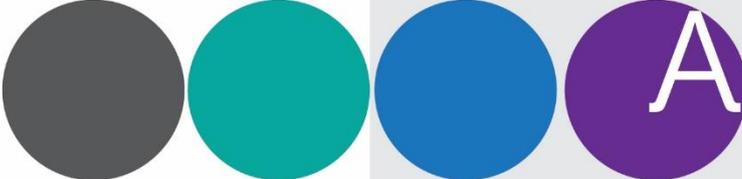


3 – 10 June 2022



bulletin



# Adult and Health



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## Covid-19 - General

### [Amendments to Covid-19 Inquiry terms of reference announced](#)

Deputy First Minister John Swinney has confirmed three amendments to the terms of reference for the Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry. Coming after a period of reflection on the terms of reference and discussions with Inquiry Chair Lady Poole, amendments made include to expressly include social care and the experiences of unpaid carers in the terms of reference. Paragraph 2H as amended will now task the inquiry to investigate the strategic elements of the handling of the pandemic related to provision of social care support including the management and support of staff and the recognition, involvement and support of unpaid carers. The other amendments relate to consideration of disparities and clarification of the wording in terms of the imposition of restrictions.

## Alcohol and Drugs

### [Study shows effects of minimum unit pricing on those drinking at harmful levels](#)

Public Health Scotland (PHS) has published a final report evaluating the impact of minimum unit pricing (MUP) on people who drink alcohol at harmful levels, including those dependent on alcohol and those accessing treatment services in Scotland. The study found no clear evidence of a change in consumption or severity of dependence amongst people who drink at harmful levels or with alcohol dependency. The study was carried out by



the University of Sheffield, the University of Newcastle (Australia) and Figure 8 Consultancy Services.

## Care Homes/Care at Home

### [SAGE working group statement on association between discharge from hospital and Covid in care homes](#)

A consensus statement on the association between the discharge of patients from hospital and Covid in care homes has been published by the Social Care Working Group to the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE). The report, commissioned by the Department of Health and Social Care and written in December 2021, found that at least some care home outbreaks were caused or partly caused or intensified by discharges from hospital, but “based on the very much larger associations between care home size and outbreaks, hospital discharge does not appear to have been the dominant way in which Covid-19 entered care homes”.

## End of Life/Palliative Care

### [Professional standards in end of life care for community pharmacy to be developed](#)

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society is partnering with Marie Curie to develop professional standards in end of life care for community pharmacy. The standards will be available for pharmacy teams across the UK and will provide a free, evidence-based framework to help community pharmacies self-assess and continuously improve their end of life and bereavement care. A professional standards steering group is being established and there will be an opportunity for interested individuals to help shape the work through a wider reference group.

## Infection Prevention and Control

### [Monkeypox listed as a notifiable infectious disease \(England\)](#)

Monkeypox has been listed as a notifiable infectious disease which means that doctors in England are required to notify their local council or local health protection team (HPT) if they suspect a patient has monkeypox. The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has noted that there are currently 305 confirmed cases in England, 11 in Scotland, 2 in Northern Ireland and 3 in Wales.

## Justice

### [Bail and Release from Custody \(Scotland\) Bill introduced to Parliament](#)

The Scottish Government has lodged proposed legislation designed to ensure that, as much as possible, the use of custody for remand is a last resort for the court, and to give a greater focus to the rehabilitation and reintegration of individuals leaving custody. The Bail and Release from Custody (Scotland) Bill would amend Part 3 of the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995 to enable the court to receive information from justice social work to help inform its decisions on bail and to limit the circumstances in which the court may refuse bail. The Bill would also reform



mechanisms governing release from custody and the support provided to people leaving prison, with an emphasis on reintegration into communities.

### [Care Inspectorate publishes report on serious incident reviews](#)

The Care Inspectorate has published report on serious incident reviews in justice social work. We received a total of 317 serious incident notifications between January 2018 and December 2021, of which 300 met criteria for a serious incident review. These took place across 26 local authorities and predominantly related to acts of serious violence and sexual offences. There were also circumstances in which a person died or was killed which warranted further review. The report highlights positive performance but also recommends where further improvements should be made.

## **Learning Disabilities**

### [RCN to host webinar on the history of care for people with learning disabilities](#)

The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) is to host a webinar on the history of care for people with learning disabilities on 15 June. The free event will use art, photos and archive material to explore how care for people with learning disabilities has shifted over time and to reflect on community support for learning disability today.

## **Mental Health**

### [Mental Welfare Commission responds to Mental Health Law Review consultation](#)

The Mental Welfare Commission has published its response to the Scottish Mental Health Law Review's recent consultation on changes to Scotland's mental health laws. The Commission said it supported the intention to improve people's rights and protections, and to remove barriers to those caring for their health and welfare, and described the consultation as an "opportunity for the law to ensure greater visibility and support for people with a mental health condition to be involved in directing how services are governed, developed, and scrutinised". The consultation is now closed, and a final report is due to be delivered to Ministers by the end of September 2022.

### [New consultation on Mental Health Law Review proposals](#)

A new consultation has been launched by the Scottish Government as part of the Mental Health and Incapacity Law Review. The new proposals put forward by the Law Review's Executive Team have been developed in partnership with people with lived experience, including unpaid carers and mental health. The consultation is seeking views on subjects including advance statements, independent advocacy and how criminal law and mental health law work together. The deadline for responses is 22 July.

### [Report on use of compulsory treatment published by Mental Welfare Commission](#)

A new research report analysing the growing use of compulsory mental health treatment for people who are very unwell has been published by the Mental Welfare



Commission. The report, produced for the Mental Health Law Review, confirms that, with the increasing use of compulsory treatment each year, the way in which that treatment takes place has also changed, with a shift towards treatment in the community rather than in hospital. The report also suggests that minoritised ethnic groups are overrepresented among people on compulsory treatment orders compared to representation in the general population.

### [Evaluation deems pilot Distress Brief Intervention programme a success and recommends rollout](#)

An evaluation of a pilot distress support and management mental health programme has found that it was successful in offering support to those in distress, and has contributed to peoples' ability to manage and reduce their distress in the short term, and for some in the longer term. The Distress Brief Intervention (DBI) programme, which aims to provide a framework for improved inter-agency coordination, collaboration and cooperation across a wide range of care settings and supports, was piloted in the Borders, Aberdeen, Inverness and Lanarkshire from November 2016 to March of 2021, with services initially targeting people over 18 then expanding to include younger people in 2019. The evaluation recommends the national rollout of DBI should continue, based on the success of the pilot.

### [Mental health organisations call for 'radical change' in mental health policy](#)

Scotland's Mental Health Partnership has launched a paper calling for a "radically different" Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Scotland. The paper, developed by the Partnership with input from its 17 member organisations from the voluntary sector, calls for the development of a new long term strategy and makes a number of proposals, including: adopting a "promote, prevent, provide" approach; ensuring mental health is prioritised in all policies through a mental health impact assessment; developing a workforce strategy that enables new models of person-centred care to be provided; a new consistent self-management approach to maintain recovery and prevent relapse among those with long term conditions.

## **Workforce**

### [NES launches workforce survey on digital learning in health and social care](#)

NHS Education for Scotland (NES) is conducting a survey of people working in health and social care in Scotland to get a better understanding of the digital and technology learning needs of the health and social care workforce. The Digitally Enabled Workforce team within NES is looking to gather a wide range of views to support the development of digital skills and confidence across the workforce.

### [SSSC publishes analysis of responses to 'A Register for the future' consultation](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has published an analysis of responses to its consultation on 'A Register for the future'. More than 6,500 people responded to the consultation, which ran for 12 weeks from 20 December 2021 until 14 March 2022. While respondents agreed with most of the proposals, there were two key areas which appear to require further discussion: public facing register



information and requirements around adult social care qualifications. Over the summer the SSSC will run workshops with the stakeholder advisory group and other stakeholders to explore views and better understand specific concerns before the proposals are finalised and go to Council for decision in November.

## **Other Health and Social Care**

### [Complaints about care services in Scotland, 2019/20 to 2021/22](#)

The Care Inspectorate has published a statistical bulletin on complaints about care services in Scotland. The report covers complaints received and investigated between April 2019 and March 2022 and focuses in particular on the most recent year, 1 April to 31 March 2022. The statistics show we actioned every complaint received and responded appropriately using a risk-based assessment process to satisfactorily resolve complaints as quickly as possible. In 2021/22, we received 5,595 complaints. In 2019/20, we received 5,831 complaints.

### [Iriss publishes workplan for 2022-23](#)

Iriss has published its workplan for 2022-23. Iriss will focus its work on innovation and change in social work and social care over the coming year. The workplan is informed by feedback received as part of a workforce survey sent out in December 2021 and notes that eight areas of need were identified, including staffing, capacity, processes and system shock and recovery.

### [Carers Week: 6 – 12 June](#)

Carers Week continues until 12 June. Carers Week is an annual campaign to raise awareness of caring, highlight the challenges unpaid carers face and recognise the contribution they make to families and communities throughout the UK. [A report](#) has been published to mark the week, highlighting the impact of carers and calling for caring to be made “visible, valued and supported”.

**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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