




Adult and Health



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Covid-19 - General

[Academic research for Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry published](#)

The Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry has published a range of reports setting out the findings of research commissioned into the areas of investigation set out in the inquiry's terms of reference. There are 14 research reports in total, with five focusing specifically on health and social care provision. Researchers were asked for information such as the key events, main bodies or persons involved, relevant research papers and publications, and areas suggested for further investigation.

- Scottish Care is to host a [webinar](#) on the Inquiry and the care sector on 23 June, including a presentation from Brodies LLP Solicitors.

[Latest state of the Covid epidemic report published](#)

The Scottish Government has published its latest state of the epidemic report summarising current data on Covid-19 at a national and local level, and how Scotland currently compares to the rest of the UK. The report includes information about the vaccination programme and variants of concerns.



Alcohol and Drugs

[Report on suspected drug deaths between January and March 2022](#)

A report on suspected drug deaths from January to March 2022 has been published by the Scottish Government. The report, which uses Police Scotland management information as a key indicator, suggests there were 285 suspected drug deaths recorded in the first three months of 2022, which is a similar level to the previous two calendar quarters, but 27% lower than the same period in 2021. The report also suggests the rolling 12-month suspected drug death total has declined for four consecutive quarters.

[Findings from review of alcohol marketing restrictions in European countries](#)

A review of alcohol marketing restrictions in seven European countries has been published by Public Health Scotland (PHS). The review looked at the state of alcohol marketing restrictions in Estonia, Finland, France, Ireland, Lithuania, Norway, and Sweden. It notes that most of these countries have banned alcohol advertising in specific settings or forms of media, justifying restrictions on the grounds of promoting public health by reducing population-level alcohol consumption and harmful drinking.

[RCN members call for UK Government to support safer injecting facilities](#)

The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) has called for the UK Government to support the introduction of safer injecting facilities across the UK. At the RCN Congress in Glasgow, members voted to lobby the UK Government to support the introduction of safer injecting facilities, with full integration with mainstream health services to support nurses and reduce stigma.

Alzheimer's/Dementia

[National AHP Dementia Webinar to be held on 29 June](#)

Alzheimer Scotland is inviting individuals to attend a 'Just Move' National AHP Dementia Webinar on 29 June. The webinar will include tips and best practice ideas from physiotherapists to support people to live well with dementia.

Healthcare

[Findings from NES/HIS adverse events study published](#)

The findings of a joint study on the impact of adverse events on patients and families in Scotland have been published by NHS Education for Scotland (NES) and Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS). Key themes to emerge from the study, published in the British Medical Journal and based on in-depth qualitative interviews, include: importance of clear communication and a person-centred approach; the negative impact of prolonged timescales; and a clear focus on involving patients and families to enhance learning and improvement.



[Joint statement on regulatory and professional standards in pharmacy](#)

An updated statement on the importance of both regulatory and professional standards has been published by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society and General Pharmaceutical Council. The statement explains the difference between regulatory and professional standards and how they interrelate to provide a framework for professional practice and patient care.

[Committee reports on alternative pathways to primary care](#)

A committee at the Scottish Parliament has published its findings following an inquiry into alternative pathways to primary care in Scotland. The Health, Social Care and Sport Committee explored use and awareness of alternative pathways and investigated whether the process is operating effectively. The report covers a range of themes, including the patient/practitioner perspectives, social prescribing and the potential risks and benefits of greater use of digital approaches.

Infection Prevention and Control

[Scottish Care raises concerns on funding for infection prevention and control](#)

Scottish Care has issued a statement raising concerns over the removal of funding for infection prevention and control, and PPE in social care. The statement notes that the funding has been essential in supporting the sector and its workforce to provide safe, quality care and to support people living at home and in care homes.

Mental Health

[Research suggests link between loneliness and mental health distress](#)

New research published by the UK Government has suggested a “direct two-way link” between chronic loneliness and mental health distress. Conducted independently by the National Centre for Social Research, the researchers compiled data from over 35,000 people aged 16 and over from 2013/14 to 2019/20. The findings from the research suggest that, in addition to the link between loneliness and mental health distress, specific groups such as young people, disabled people, and the LGBTQ community are at higher risk of chronic loneliness. It also noted that those on lowest incomes were 50% more likely to experience chronic loneliness compared with the wealthiest quintile.

[Summary of views gathered to support new suicide prevention strategy](#)

The Scottish Government has published a summary report of the views gathered during an early engagement phase to support the development of Scotland’s new suicide prevention strategy and action plan 2022. The engagement process sought views relating to a number of themes, including suicide prevention, early intervention, crisis, postvention, tackling stigma, raising awareness, and capacity building. Respondents suggested a wide range of policy areas that should be involved in suicide prevention activity, such as mental health, social care, criminal justice, education, transport, housing and poverty.



Workforce

[Findings of inquiry into experiences of lower-paid ethnic minority workers in health and social care](#)

The findings of an inquiry assessing the treatment and experiences of lower-paid ethnic minority workers in health and social care, particularly during the Covid-19 pandemic, have been published by the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC). Among the general findings, the inquiry highlighted: incomplete data on lower-paid ethnic minority workers, particularly in adult social care; different treatment and experiences at work; commissioning and outsourcing leading to poor pay and insecure work; low awareness of employment rights; fear of raising concerns and a lack of mechanisms to do so.

- The EHRC has published a specific [policy briefing for Scotland](#), which makes a number of recommendations tied in with the social care reform agenda and calls for the Care Inspectorate to review existing inspection frameworks to they address equality issues for ethnic minority workers.

[Social Care Worker Death in Service Payment Scheme update](#)

An update on the Scottish Government's Social Care Worker Death in Service Payment Scheme has been highlighted by the Scottish Social Services Council. The scheme provides a one-off payment of £60,000 to a named survivor of a social care worker who has died in service as a result of, or the suspected result of, contracting Covid-19 at work. The scheme will make payments for eligible claims for deaths between 17 March and 30 June 2022. Claims can be submitted until 30 June 2023.

[Union publishes report on impact of pandemic on social workers across UK](#)

A report on the impact of the pandemic on social workers has been published by the UNISON union. The report, based on a survey of nearly 3,000 social workers across the UK, highlights staff shortages (93%), unmanageable caseloads (90%) and long hours (80%) as major concerns affecting the ability of social workers to do their jobs. Seven in ten (72%) said their workload has increased during the pandemic and 89% are worried about the level of service they are able to provide to the public.

[App showing what it is like to receive care launched](#)

An app allowing those giving care and support to experience what it feels like to be receiving care has been launched by the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC). Produced in partnership with Glasgow School of Art's School of Simulation and Visualisation, BeMe uses 360° video and surround sound to represent what it feels like to be a person receiving care, with the choice of several types of services and settings to ensure a broad understanding of different care situations.

[Scottish social care workforce 'community of interest' launched](#)

A new 'community of interest' network for individuals with a role, responsibility or interest in social care workforce issues has been created by the Scottish Social Services Council, supported by Scottish Care, COSLA and CCPS. The aim of the



group is to provide a forum for sharing information on workforce related developments and events within the sector, to provide a platform for individuals to express views and initiate discussion on topics of interest, and for the sharing of practice throughout the Scottish social services sector.

[NMC consults on English language requirements](#)

A consultation on proposed changes to English language requirements has been launched by the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC). The consultation, which closes on 12 August, focuses on two areas: testing, and whether the NMC should consider accepting other evidence of English language competence, including employer references, evidence of unregulated practice in UK health and care settings, or postgraduate qualifications that people have studied in English.

Other Health and Social Care

[Care Inspectorate to host online session for managers and leaders](#)

The Care Inspectorate is to host an interactive online session for managers and leaders working in or linked with registered services for adults and older people about supporting people's wellbeing. The event, taking place on 23 June, links closely with our Quality Frameworks and Key Question 1: How well do we support people's wellbeing?

[Easy Read version of independent advocacy principles published](#)

The Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance has published an Easy Read version of its Independent Advocacy Principles, Standards and Code of Best Practice. The document is designed to ensure that independent advocacy is being delivered consistently across Scotland and to the highest possible standard.

[Social Work Scotland's responds to Local Authority Financial Return consultation](#)

Social Work Scotland has published its response to the Scottish Government's consultation on proposed changes to Local Authority Financial Return for Social Work services. The response raises concern at proposals to reduce full service expenditure and income data to three client-group categories, arguing that concerns around data quality "could be minimised by re-assessing and updating the solutions provided in 2002, and considering what would be required for effective implementation".

[ALLIANCE report explores 20-minute neighbourhood](#)

A report exploring the 20-minute neighbourhood concept has been published by the ALLIANCE Academy and partners. The report, explores the benefits and challenges of a 20-minute neighbourhood, which people can access all the things they need in their daily lives within a 20 minute walk, wheel or cycle from their home, through the lens of inclusivity, diversity, and accessibility.



[Volunteering Action Plan published](#)

An action plan to raise the profile of volunteering and its impact on society has been published by the Scottish Government. The Volunteering Action Plan was co-produced with working groups and sets out actions over a 10-year period as part of a 'Living Plan'.

[New data strategy for health and social care \(England\)](#)

A new data strategy for health and social care has been published by the UK Government. The strategy focuses on seven principles, including improving data for adult social care and improving trust in the health and care system's use of data.

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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