




Adult and Health



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Covid-19 - General

[Most vulnerable encouraged to come forward for spring booster](#)

The Scottish Government is urging people who are eligible for a spring booster jab to come forward before the end of June. A spring booster vaccination has been offered to people aged 75 or over, and those who are over 12 and are immunosuppressed. Anyone that falls into these groups and who has not had their spring booster jab can book online or call the national vaccination helpline to make an appointment.

[PHS statistical report shows increase in Covid-19 cases](#)

Public Health Scotland (PHS) has published its weekly statistical report on Covid-19 across NHS Scotland. The statistical release notes that in the week ending 19 June 2022 there were 15,541 reported Covid-19 cases, an increase of 30.5% from the previous week ending 12 June 2022 (11,909). It also notes an increase on the average number of patients in hospital with the virus from 693 in the week ending 12 June 2022 to 867 in the week ending 19 June.



[ONS Covid-19 infection survey headline results published](#)

The Scottish Government has published headline results from the ONS Covid-19 infection survey. The survey aims to measure how many people across England, Wales, Northern Ireland, and Scotland test positive for Covid-19 at a given point in time, the average number of new positive cases per week, and the number of people who test positive for antibodies. It notes that for the week ending 10 June 2022, an estimated 176,900 people in Scotland had Covid-19 at any given time.

[Once for Scotland approach published to deliver rehabilitation in post-Covid era](#)

The Scottish Government has launched its Once for Scotland approach to rehabilitation in a post-Covid era. The approach is based on six principles of good rehabilitation and looks to address the challenges brought about by the pandemic. It notes that health and social care services, including rehabilitation, have been impacted by the pandemic and that individuals are now emerging with complex physical and mental health needs that require rehabilitation.

[National study provides vital research on immunity and vaccine effectiveness](#)

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has published an overview of the SARS-CoV2 immunity and reinfection evaluation (SIREN) study, including an outline of the main evidence produced by the study. The study was established early in the pandemic to evaluate the immune response to Covid-19, build understanding of the protection offered by vaccines and provide insight into Covid-19 reinfections. The study is UK wide and runs in partnership with the Public Health Agency Northern Ireland, Public Health Scotland, and Public Health Wales.

Alcohol and Drugs

[Review suggests more work needed to increase availability of Naloxone](#)

A review on the availability and implementation of naloxone in the UK has been published by the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD). The review found that there has been an increase in the number of people who have been administered naloxone over the past 10 years. However, it notes that more work is needed to extend the access to naloxone and increase uptake in community partnerships in the UK. The review makes a number of recommendations such as introducing contractual arrangements across the UK to allow community pharmacies to issue take-home naloxone.

[New research exploring lived experiences of residential rehabilitation published](#)

New research exploring pathways into, through and out of residential rehabilitation from those with lived experience has been published by the Scottish Government. The research consisted of interviews with nine people with lived experience of having accessed residential rehabilitation. The main findings suggest that the majority of people interviewed experienced various challenges in accessing residential rehabilitation and notes the considerable effort by some of the participants and their families to secure funding for their placement.



[Public Health Scotland annual alcohol strategy report published](#)

Public Health Scotland (PHS) has published its annual alcohol strategy monitoring report stating that in 2020, 1,190 people in Scotland died from a cause wholly attributable to alcohol. The report notes that in 2019, 24% of adults in Scotland exceeded the low-risk weekly drinking guideline (14 units), which shows a decline from 34% in 2003. It also noted that of those exceeding the guideline, the mean weekly consumption was highest among those in the lowest income groups. PHS has also published a [National benchmarking report on implementation of the Medication Assisted Treatment \(MAT\) standards](#) on the progress that alcohol and drug partnerships in Scotland are making to meet the Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) standards.

[WHO highlights the effectiveness of minimum pricing on reducing alcohol consumption](#)

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has published a report on minimum pricing, reviewing implementation of minimum pricing policies globally. It looks at the strengths and limitations of these policies and outlines practical considerations for countries. The report notes that alcohol pricing policies and alcohol taxation are some of the most effective, and cost-effective, ways to reduce alcohol consumption and harms, yet they are the most underused. It also notes that recent studies suggest that over 130,000 deaths could be prevented annually in the WHO European Region if all countries were to introduce a minimum level of 15% tax on the retail price per unit of alcohol.

Alzheimer's/Dementia

[Multi-million-pound prize announced to develop technology for people with dementia](#)

Alzheimer's Society, Innovate UK and the Medical Research Council (MRC) have announced a partnership to launch new multi-million-pound prize to develop life-changing technology for people with dementia. The Longitude Prize on Dementia will open for entries in September and will award over £3 million in seed funding and grants to the most promising innovators and £1 million prize to the winner in early 2026.

Care Homes/Care at Home

[New guide developed to support staff to deliver meaningful activities](#)

The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) has developed new guidance to help care home staff deliver meaningful activity for their residents. The guide explains what meaningful activity is, its benefits, and includes links to resources. RCN notes that even though the new guidance was created with care homes in mind, meaningful activity should be considered in all care settings.



Carers

[Survey of adult carers \(England\)](#)

The UK Government's NHS Digital has published Personal Social Services Survey of Adult Carers in England, 2021-22. The survey covers informal, unpaid carers aged 18 or over, caring for a person aged 18 or over, where the carer has been assessed or reviewed, either separately or jointly with the cared-for person, by social services during the 12 months prior to the sample being identified.

Justice

[Statistics on criminal proceedings in Scotland published](#)

The Scottish Government has published statistics on criminal proceedings and alternative measures to prosecutions for the ten years from 2011-12 to 2020-21. The statistics include figures for the first full year of the pandemic and note the impact of the pandemic across the justice system. The report suggests that the latest data is a reflection of the impact of the pandemic and should not be interpreted as indicative of longer-term trends. Key findings from the report include:

- A total of 46,497 people were proceeded against in court in 2020-21, a fall of 46% on 2019-20 (86,143 proceedings). The number of convictions fell at a similar rate, down 44% to 42,532 from 75,670 in 2019-20.
- The overall conviction rate increased to 91% in 2020-21, up from 88% in 2019-20.
- A total of 39 people were proceeded against in court for offences relating to coronavirus restrictions in 2020-21, with 36 of these resulting in a conviction.

[Criminal Justice Committee publishes annual report for 2021-22](#)

The Criminal Justice Committee has published its annual report for 2021-2022. The Committee held a number of roundtable meetings which looked at issues in the justice sector such as domestic abuse, gender-based violence and sexual offences and problem drug use.

Mental Health

[Royal College of Psychiatrists response to the Mental Health Law Review](#)

The Royal College of Psychiatrists (RCPsych) in Scotland has published its response to the Scottish Mental Health Law Review. The college notes that any new legislation should work for people of all ages, including children and young people and people with learning disabilities. The college also calls for specific evaluations of the workforce and resource implications of proposals from the Review ahead on any legislative process.



[MWC updates guidance for local authorities supervising private welfare guardians](#)

The Mental Welfare Commission (MWC) has published an updated good practice guide on supervising private welfare guardians and welfare powers of attorney in Scotland. MWC has noted concerns that some private welfare guardians are not getting the information and support they need to fulfil their role and are now sharing the reviewed guide as a reminder of the statutory duties to support proxy decision makers according to AWI legislation.

Older People

[Age UK has published a blog on the challenges faced by older LGBT+ community](#)

Age UK has published a blog on the health and wellbeing issues facing the older LGBT+ community. Keith Paterson from LGBT Health and Wellbeing said that older LGBT+ people face additional changes, noting that this group are much more likely to live alone, less likely to have a partner or to have children, and significantly more likely not to have anyone to call at a time of need. He notes that this leads to a greater reliance on services and support yet LGBT+ people are less likely to try and access these services.

Workforce

[Eight new Open Badges created for online safety](#)

The SSSC has created eight new online safety and security Open Badges. Open badges are digital records of achievements and skills, and can be used to evidence learning. The new badges have been created for anyone working in social work, social care, and early years in order to help keep themselves, their organisation and people using services safe and secure online.

[Active period for Social Care Staff Support Fund extended to end of September](#)

The Scottish Government has announced that the active period for the Social Care Staff Support Fund has been extended to 30 September 2022. The Fund was created to ensure that social care workers do not experience financial hardship if they are unwell or self-isolating due to coronavirus.

[Safe staffing legislation due to be completed by 2024](#)

The Scottish Government announced that work is underway to implement safe staffing legislation by spring 2024. The Health and Care (Staffing) Act was passed by the Scottish Parliament in 2019 and aims to ensure appropriate staffing levels are in place to support high quality of care for patients and service users. Work has now started to develop guidance and tools to support the implementation of the legislation.



[RCN has published its response to the workforce inquiry \(England\)](#)

The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) has published its response to the Public Services Committee workforce inquiry. In its submission RCN notes the UK Government must prioritise and be accountable for the delivery of a fully funded workforce plan to build a safe and efficient health and care system.

Other Health and Social Care

[National Care Service \(Scotland\) Bill has been introduced](#)

The Scottish Government introduced the National Care Service (Scotland) Bill on Tuesday 21 June 2022. The Bill will allow Scottish Ministers to transfer social care responsibility from local authorities to a new, National Care Service (NCS). This could include adult and children's services, as well as areas such as justice social work, but the Scottish Government would need to consult with the public before transferring responsibilities relating to children's services or justice social work to the new NCS. Scottish Ministers will also be able to transfer healthcare functions from the NHS to the new NCS.

- [Alzheimer Scotland](#) has published its response to the National Care Service (Scotland) Bill. The charity recognises that this is a positive step forward however it notes that people living with dementia, and those who care for them, can't wait for the improvements that a National Care Service may bring. It also notes the publication of draft Bill is not a substitute for immediate action to the social care crisis.
- The [British Association of Social Workers \(BASW\)](#) has prepared a briefing and reassured members that they will be seeking their feedback during the process.
- The [Royal College of Nursing \(RCN\)](#) in Scotland has responded to the publication of the National Care Service (Scotland) Bill. It notes that workforce shortages must be addressed in order for any social care reform to be effective. RCN also suggest that safe staffing legislation must have a key part in the reform process.

[The new Adult Disability Payment has been rolled out to three more areas](#)

The next phase of the pilot rollout of the Adult Disability Payment (ADP) has been launched by the Scottish Government. People living in Angus, North Lanarkshire and South Lanarkshire can now apply for ADP. The ADP is a new Scottish Government benefit which replaces the UK Government's Personal Independence Payment (PIP). The new payment is being introduced in pilot areas ahead of being introduced nationwide on 29 August. It was introduced in Perth, Dundee and the Western Isles in March.

[Scottish Charity Awards winners 2022 announced](#)

The Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) announced the winners of the Scottish Charity Awards 2022 at its awards ceremony on 15 June. Anna Fowlie, SCVO chief executive, said "At SCVO we know that every day, voluntary



organisations across the country are working tirelessly to support the people and communities they help, and are making an incredible impact.”

[SCIE has published an article on strength-based approaches to social care practice](#)

The Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) has published an article on strength-based approaches to social care practice. The article includes links to resources on the new strength-based practice leadership programme developed by SCIE and the University of Birmingham. It also includes a summary of discussions from the European Social Network conference.

[Concerns raised about legal protection for people with a learning disability \(England\)](#)

Learning Disability England has raised concerns that the new Bill of Rights will remove some legal protection from people with a learning disability. In an article published on 23 June, members of Learning Disability England share their concern that the new Bill may take away some of the protection the Human Rights Act provides.

[Scottish Human Rights Commission appoint new Chair](#)

Ian Duddy has been announced as the new Chair of the Scottish Human Rights Commission. Ian has previously worked for the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, where he led the Human Rights & Rule of Law Department. He is also a former UK ambassador and led the UK team at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva from 2011 to 2016.

[Debate on social care charges](#)

Scottish Labour has held a debate in the Scottish Parliament on social care charges. The discussion touched on delivering the removal of non-residential social care charges, the cost of living, and the creation of the national care service.

**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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