



16 – 22 July 2022



bulletin



# Adult and Health

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## **Covid-19 - General**

### [UK Covid-19 Inquiry launches first investigation](#)

Baroness Heather Hallett has officially launched the UK Covid-19 Inquiry and opened the first investigation into how well prepared the UK was for the pandemic. The Inquiry Chair also set out a timeline for the next 12 months, with preliminary hearings starting this year and the first witness to be called in Spring 2023. Module 1 is examining the resilience and preparedness of the UK for the coronavirus pandemic. Module 2 will be split into parts and will examine core political and administrative governance and decision-making by the UK government, with Modules 2A, 2B and 2C addressing the same overarching and strategic issues from the perspective of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

### [Autumn Covid-19 booster to be offered to those at highest risk](#)

A further booster vaccination will be offered to those at highest risk of severe Covid-19 illness from September, the Scottish Government has confirmed. The decision follows advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation. Groups to be offered include residents in a care home for older adults and staff working in care homes for older adults, frontline health and social



care workers, adults aged 50 years and over, those aged 5-49 years in a clinical risk group or who are household contacts of people with immunosuppression, and carers aged 16-49 years.

#### [Latest Covid-19 figures published by PHS](#)

Public Health Scotland (PHS) has released the latest Covid-19 figures noting that in the week ending 17 July 2022, there were an estimated 334,000 people testing positive for Covid-19 in Scotland, and an average of 1,770 patients in hospital with Covid-19, a 6.1% increase from the previous week ending 10 July 2022 (1,669).

#### **Alcohol and Drugs**

#### [Final report published by Scotland's Drug Death Taskforce](#)

Scotland's Drug Death Taskforce has published its final report. The Taskforce, commissioned by the Scottish Government and chaired by David Strang, has produced 20 overarching recommendations along with 139 actions. The report calls on the Scottish Government to publish a plan as soon as possible on how they will implement the recommendations set out in the report, as well as recommending publication of a national outcomes framework and strategy to underpin the National Mission. The report includes a section on standards and inspection, recommending that all services "must be appropriately regulated, with standards and guidance developed", and should be "subject to regular inspection to ensure safe, effective, accessible and high-quality services".

#### [New research published on the impact of MUP on Scottish men and women](#)

BMJ Open have published a research report on the differential impact of minimum unit pricing (MUP) on alcohol consumption between Scottish men and woman. The report found that the introduction of MUP was associated with a net drop in consumption, which was largely driven by greater reduction in consumption by women. The report also suggests that consumption among the 5% of heaviest drinking men had increased after the introduction of MUP. The research also suggests that reductions in consumption were greater among older respondents and those living in less deprived areas.

#### **Care Homes/Care at Home**

#### [Committee calls for action to protect vulnerable people in care settings \(England\)](#)

A report on protecting human rights in care settings has been published by the Joint Committee on Human Rights at Westminster. The report warns that gaps remain in how vulnerable people are protected in care settings in England, leaving their human rights at risk of being breached. The report includes a chapter on complaints mechanisms, calling for these to be "clarified and streamlined", and calls on the UK Government to work with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) to ensure there is sufficient oversight of how care providers safeguard and protect human rights.



## **Infection Prevention and Control**

### [Updated National Infection Prevention and Control Manual relaunched](#)

The updated National Infection Prevention and Control Manual (NIPCM) has been relaunched by NHS Education for Scotland. The NIPCM aims to help reduce the risk of Healthcare Associated Infection (HAI), make it easy for care staff to apply effective infection prevention and control (IPC) precautions, optimise IPC practices throughout Scotland, improve the application of knowledge and skills in IPC, and help align practice education, monitoring, quality improvement and scrutiny. The relaunch of the manual emphasises the ongoing importance of the application of IPC guidance within health and care settings across Scotland.

## **Workforce**

### [SSSC looking for independent Fitness to Practise panel members](#)

The Scottish Social Security Council (SSSC) is looking for people to sit as independent panel members on its Fitness to Practise Panels. Applications are welcome from people of all backgrounds, in particular from people from Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities. An open evening will be held on Monday 8 August to explain more about the role.

### [New digital resources launched to boost nursing numbers](#)

The NHS Scotland Academy, a partnership between NHS Golden Jubilee and NHS Education for Scotland (NES), has launched two new resources to support nurses from outside of the UK to work in Scotland. The Academy created the digital resources to support nurse educators delivering Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) Test of Competence Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) training, and international nurse recruits undertaking the test.

## **Other Health and Social Care**

### [CQC published new single assessment framework \(England\)](#)

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has published its new single assessment framework, to be introduced in phases. The CQC has confirmed that its quality ratings and five questions will remain central to its approach, however the existing key lines of enquiry (KLOEs) and prompts will be replaced with new quality statements, which will apply for all types of services. More detail about how the new approach will work in practice is due in the coming weeks and months.

**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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