



23 – 29 July



bulletin

A row of four overlapping circles in shades of grey, teal, blue, and purple. The purple circle contains a white letter 'A'.

Adult and Health

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Covid-19 - General

[Latest update published on Covid-19 variants in the UK](#)

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has published the latest update on Covid-19 variants in the UK. The update confirms that the Omicron BA.5 is now the dominant variant in the UK, with an estimated 78.7% of confirmed cases in England made up of the BA.5 variant.

[Covid-19 advice updated for those who were on Highest Risk List](#)

The Scottish Government has updated sections of its Covid-19 advice for people who were on the Highest Risk List. The overview, [mental health support](#), and [guidance for immunosuppressed people](#) have been updated.



Alcohol and Drugs

[According to latest figures 1,330 people died of drug misuse in Scotland last year](#)

According to the latest figures by the National Records of Scotland (NRS), there were 1,330 deaths due to drug misuse in Scotland in 2021. The report notes that this is the second highest annual figure on record and that people aged 35-44 were most likely to die from drug misuse. The report also notes that, after adjusting for age, people in the most deprived areas were more than 15 times as likely to die from drug misuse as those in the least deprived areas.

[PHS publishes report on drug related deaths that occurred in 2017 and 2018](#)

Public Health Scotland (PHS) has reported that in 2018, 1,209 drug related deaths occurred in Scotland, with 1,154 of these deaths classed as non-intentional. The latest PHS statistical report provides an analysis of deaths that occurred in 2017 and 2018 and presents information from the National Drug-Related Deaths Database (NDRDD) for Scotland. Focusing on non-intentional deaths which occurred in 2018, the report notes that the percentage of drug-related deaths among women increased from 21% in 2009 to 27% in 2018, and around half of all people who died were in contact with drug treatment services in the six months prior to death (48%).

[New studies suggest alcohol deaths from lockdown drinking will rise \(England\)](#)

Two studies have warned that heavy home drinking brought about by the pandemic may lead to a rise in alcohol related deaths and illness in England. The two separate studies, one conducted by the Institute of Alcohol Studies and the other by the University of Sheffield, have also noted that impacts of lockdown drinking are not evenly distributed across the population, with heavier drinkers and those in most deprived areas expected to be disproportionately affected.

Alzheimer's/Dementia

[Charity calls for increased care and support for those living with dementia](#)

Age Scotland has called for a focus on diagnosis, increased preventative care and enhanced community-led support for people living with dementia. The charity has highlighted figures released from the National Records for Scotland (NRC) noting that 6,046 deaths were caused by Alzheimer's disease and other dementias in 2021. Though these figures indicate a decrease of 5% from 2020, Age Scotland noted that the mortality rate caused by Alzheimer's disease and other dementias was 117 deaths per 100,000 people in 2021, more than twice as high as it was in 2000 (56 deaths per 100,000).

Care Homes/Care at Home

[New guidance on delivering eye care in adult care settings](#)

New updated guidance has been published by the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) on delivering eye care in adult care settings. The updated guide is intended for non-



ophthalmic nursing staff, including health and care assistants, in adult care settings. The updated guide highlights the importance of eye care, the role and responsibilities of the carer in delivering care and accessing the right care at the right time.

Mental Health

[RCN responds to the mental health and wellbeing plan consultation \(England\)](#)

Royal College of Nursing (RCN) has published its response to the Department of Health and Social Care's consultation on the mental health and wellbeing plan. RCN notes some of the most important issues the new ten-year plan needs to address include early intervention and service access, prevention, crisis care and support. RCN also noted that holistic care is vital, and that mental health needs can't be separated from physical and social needs.

Older People

[Nominations are now open for Creative Ageing Awards](#)

Nominations are now open for Scotland's Creative Ageing Awards. These are run by Luminate, Scotland's organisation for the development of creative ageing and this year's awards are part of their 10th anniversary celebrations. They will recognise arts, crafts, film and creative media projects and activities which target older audiences and participants, or target cross-generational participants - or projects aimed at a wider audience which have a theme related to ageing. The closing date for nominations is Sunday 11 September.

Workforce

[Leadership for Integration programme open for applications](#)

Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has announced that the Leadership for Integration (Lfi) programme, You as a Collaborative Leader (YaCL), will be running again from November 2022- February 2023. The programme is delivered by the SSSC in partnership with the Royal College of General Practitioners and NHS Education for Scotland. It is open at all health and social care professionals to develop skills and knowledge to lead effectively in integrated settings. The closing date for applications is 19 August 2022.

[New eLearning module on equality and the Public Sector Duty launched by NES](#)

NHS Education for Scotland (NES) has launched a new eLearning module and suite of resources aimed at Board members about equality and the Public Sector Duty. The module aims to promote understanding of key issues relating to equality and how those in senior leadership roles can help advance equality and eliminate discriminations.



[Expert panel report on the health and social care workforce published \(England\)](#)

The Health and Social Care Committee has published an expert panel report evaluating the Government's commitments in the area of the health and social care workforce in England. The expert panel identified 7 commitments across three broad policy areas and evaluated the Government's progress against these commitments. The report suggests that the overall rating for the commitments across the three policy areas evaluated was inadequate. It also notes a common theme throughout the expert panel's evaluations to date has been the lack of workforce planning which has led to issues with workforce shortages.

Other Health and Social Care

[Scotland's Adult Disability Payment now available in 13 council areas](#)

The Adult Disability Payment (ADP) is now available in Aberdeenshire, City of Aberdeen, Fife, Moray, East Ayrshire, North Ayrshire, and South Ayrshire. ADP is now available in a total of 13 council areas ahead of the nationwide roll out on 29 August. Those receiving Personal Independence Payment and Disability Living Allowance will be automatically transferred from the DWP to Social Security Scotland. The process of transferring cases will begin this summer with completion expected by the end of 2025.

[New plan published to deliver Framework for Chronic Pain Service Delivery](#)

The Scottish Government has published a new implementation plan for delivering its framework for chronic pain service delivery. The plan sets out a number of priorities and actions to reduce the impact of chronic pain on quality of life and wellbeing and improve information, care and services for people in Scotland. Actions include establishing a national expert working group to oversee coordination and development of chronic pain information and resources, establishing a Chronic Pain knowledge hub for healthcare professionals to promote understanding and learning on chronic pain, and identifying local barriers, opportunities and priorities from users of chronic pain services.

[Revised Code of Practice for implementing Adult Support and Protection \(Scotland\) Act 2007](#)

Scottish Government has published the revised Code of Practice for implementing the Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007. The revised Code of Practice aims to reflect the developments in policy, practice and legislation, both in the overall context of adult support and protection and in day-to-day activity. New guidance has also been published for [adult protection committees](#) and [GP's and primary care teams](#).

**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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