



Adult
and
Health



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Covid-19 - General

[Charity launches Long Covid Network](#)

The ALLIANCE, in partnership with Asthma + Lung UK and Chest Heart & Stroke Scotland, is establishing a network for people affected by Long Covid in order to gain views from a wide range of people to inform service delivery. The first of these events was held on 10 August.

Alcohol and Drugs

[National Drugs Mission Plan published](#)

The Scottish Government has published the National Drugs Mission Plan for 2022-2026, outlining the focus of the national mission to tackle drug deaths as it enters its second year. The plan sets out the framework for delivery of the vision, which will be supported by £50m annually through the lifetime of this parliament.

Alzheimer's/Dementia

[Online carer and volunteer workshop 23/25 August](#)

Dementia Services Development Centre is hosting an online workshop for family carers and volunteers. The informal workshop includes two, one and a half hour sessions, free of charge. It provides knowledge and understanding of carers, family and volunteer dealing with those suffering from dementia. The sessions will be held on 23 and 25 August.



Health

[RPS Scotland launches best practice hub for pharmacy](#)

A new pharmacy best practice hub has been launched by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) Scotland. The hub, available both to RPS members and the public, is designed to showcase and celebrate the best practice which pharmacy teams across Scotland are engaged in. Examples will be displayed in both video and written format. Any pharmacist working in Scotland is invited to submit a case study.

[Latest overview of monkeypox outbreak](#)

The latest epidemiological overview of the monkeypox outbreak has been issued by the UK Health Security Agency. As of 4 August, there were 2,859 cases in the UK, of which 2,730 were in England, 67 were in Scotland, 37 were in Wales and 25 were in Northern Ireland. The fifth technical briefing on investigations into cases in England shows early signs the outbreak is plateauing. In the past few weeks, a small number of women have been confirmed to have monkeypox but there was not enough evidence to suggest there is sustained transmission outside of interconnected sexual networks and 99% of all UK cases are male.

[Impact of discrimination on women's health focus groups](#)

The Alliance is working with the Scottish Government to take part in research on discrimination and health as part of the Women's Health Plan. The ALLIANCE and the Scottish Government are hosting four online focus groups with women across Scotland to explore perceptions and experiences of discrimination and the impact on health, the first focus group takes place on 17 August 2022.

Mental Health

[New guide launched for suicide prevention and mental health crisis](#)

The Scottish Association for Mental Health (SAMH), NHS Grampian and Police Scotland have launched a new guide for people who suspect someone they know is suicidal or in a mental health crisis, the Scotsman reports. The guide helps people ask the right questions and get access to the right support. It has also been added to the Prevent Suicide App.

[Extra support for mental health at work](#)

The Scottish Government has launched a new free online platform for businesses to give their employees access to tools to help boost mental health. The initiative comes as research shows the pandemic has had a detrimental impact on mental health, highlighting that poor mental health cost Scottish employers over £2Billion every year. The portal is part of See Me, offering face-to-face training opportunities, clear guidance on the legal duties of businesses, and specialist third-party contacts will be in one place for the first time.



[Poetry wellbeing project launched to support Scotland's social workers](#)

A new project exploring how poetry can aid reflection, self-care and rejuvenation for adult social work and social care staff is to be launched in Scotland. Poetry for Wellbeing will be delivered in partnership by the Scottish Association of Social Work (SASW), Scottish Poetry Library (SPL) and the Universities of Edinburgh and Stirling. It will include a series of workshops which will result in a toolkit of materials for all social work and social care practitioners to run their own poetry wellbeing groups.

Older People

[Age Scotland chief executive to step away from his role](#)

Age Scotland's chief executive Brian Sloan has announced he will step away from his CEO role after 10-years. Mr Sloan will stay on for six months until a successor is found. A process to select and appoint a successor is being put in place.

[Charity urges pensioners to check for Pension Credit eligibility](#)

Age Scotland is urging pensioners living on a low State Pension to check their eligibility for Pension Credit and apply before the deadline on 18 August or risk losing out on an extra of £650 of financial support. Guaranteed Pension Credit is available to people whose weekly income is less than £182.60 if you are single, or £278.70 for couples.

Other Health and Social Care

[Care Inspectorate launch Safe Staffing Survey](#)

The Care Inspectorate is developing learning resources to support care services who employ staff, to increase their knowledge and understanding of the Health and Care (Staffing) (Scotland) Act 2019, which will be implemented from April 2024 onwards. We want your help to identify your current level of knowledge and understanding of the Act and workload / workforce planning. This will allow us to create targeted learning resources tailored to your needs. Please complete our short survey by **Sunday 4 September**. It should be completed by the registered manager / senior manager for your service, and it will take approximately five minutes to complete. All responses are anonymous, and participation is voluntary.

[Charity publishes Self-Directed Support research](#)

In Control Scotland has published research into health and social care partnerships' experiences of implementing 'option two' of Self-Directed Support (SDS), which lets patients choose the type of support they receive when the support budget is allocated and managed by someone else. The report calls for the Scottish Government to revisit the definition of option two with a view to create national standards, as only 4-7% of people using SDS are using option two. The report also highlights that some local authorities are inflexible when it comes to budget usage, and this negatively impacts service users.



[Call for evidence on National Care Service Bill](#)

The Scottish Parliament's Health, Social Care and Sport Committee has launched a call for evidence to inform its scrutiny of the National Care Service (Scotland) Bill. Respondents have an opportunity to provide detailed comments on all aspects of the Bill through the call for views, or feedback, rate specific provisions and ask questions using the Your Priorities digital conversation platform. The closing date for comments is Friday 2 September.

[IFS report highlights National Care Service challenges in 'unwinding' funding](#)

The National Care Service (NCS) will bring challenges in relation to the “unwinding” of local discretion in social care spending, according to the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS). The report calls for “careful consideration” around how to transition to new centralised funding allocations, suggesting that “if the Scottish Government is able to accurately assess the relative amounts of funding different parts of Scotland need to deliver a consistent standard of social care services, centralising funding should make it easier to deliver greater consistency”.

[Veterans Strategy published](#)

The Scottish Government has published a refreshed action plan for Veterans. The new plan covers commitments on community, employment, education and skills, finance, and debt as well as health and wellbeing. This is a ten-year plan, with specific mention of health and wellbeing allowing all veterans to enjoy a state of positive physical and mental health and wellbeing, enabling them to contribute to wider aspects of society.

[Scottish Government launches new Citizens' panel](#)

The Scottish Government has announced the launch of a new citizens panel to help shape how parliament engages with the people of Scotland. The panel will comprise of 24 people that will be selected at random and will broadly reflect the demographic make-up of Scotland. 4,800 household addresses from across all eight Parliamentary regions of Scotland will be randomly selected from the Royal Mail address database to receive letters of invitation to participate in the Citizens' Panel. Anyone aged over 16 can participate, there will be nine meetings from September to October 2022.

**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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