
Adult and
Health[Covid-19 - General](#)[Alzheimer's/Dementia](#)[Mental Health](#)[Older People](#)[Other Health & Social Care](#)**Covid-19 - General**[Face masks no longer required in social care settings](#)

Guidance on the extended use of face masks and face coverings in hospitals, primary care and wider community healthcare has been updated. The recommendation that face masks are worn at all times is being removed for service users, visitors and staff in social care settings.

[Covid-19 guidance updated for those on Highest Risk List](#)

Covid-19 guidance for those who were on the Highest Risk List has been updated to include further details on vaccination and amended information on testing and safety measures. The Scottish Government has also updated the protective measures and precautions section of its guidance for [care at home](#), [housing support and supported housing](#).



[Financial support for social care providers extended](#)

The Scottish Government has announced the Social Care Staff Support Fund has been extended until 31 March 2023. The Fund provides financial support to adult social care providers for agreed costs relating to the Covid-19 pandemic and aims to ensure social care workers do not experience financial hardship if they are ill or self-isolating due to coronavirus. [Guidance](#) on the Fund has also been updated with additional information on the Fund's arrangements and criteria sections.

[Chair of Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry to step down](#)

Lady Poole, Chair of the Scottish Covid-19 Public Inquiry, has given notice that she intends to step down from the role. She will assist with the transition to her successor during a notice period of up to three months. It was also announced that four members of the senior counsel team for the inquiry have stepped down.

Alzheimer's/Dementia

[Call for views launched to inform a new dementia strategy for Scotland](#)

The Scottish Government has launched a consultation on a new dementia strategy for Scotland and has called for national conversation to inform the new strategy. A discussion paper has been published to help people respond to the national conversation on the future of dementia policy in Scotland. A number of engagement events have also been announced starting from 10 October. The consultation will close on 5 December 2022.

[Promising results from new drug for treatment of mild Alzheimer's disease](#)

Alzheimer Scotland has highlighted positive results announced by pharmaceutical company Eisai from a large trial of the Lecanemab drug for the treatment of mild Alzheimer's disease. Alzheimer Scotland noted the full results from the trial are due to be presented at a conference in November and the drug will need to be approved by the appropriate governing bodies before it can be administered.

Mental Health

[Scotland's new suicide prevention strategy and action plan launched](#)

The Scottish Government and COSLA have published Creating Hope Together: Scotland's Suicide Prevention Strategy for the period 2022-2032. The strategy sets out a vision for suicide prevention in Scotland over the next ten years and is supported by an [action plan](#) for the next 3 years, setting out the actions needed to support the vision. It presents seven guiding principles as a way of ensuring the effective delivery of the strategy and action plan, including considering equalities and diversity to ensure the suicide prevention needs of the whole population are met whilst taking into account key risk factors, such as poverty, and social isolation. An easy read version of the [strategy](#) and [action plan](#) are also available.



[Scottish Mental Health Law Review publishes its final report](#)

The independent Review was tasked with improving the rights and protections of people who may be subject to mental health, incapacity or adult support and protection legislation because of a mental disorder. The Review's final report includes a number of recommendations to be taken forward and notes that the recommendations for change made throughout the report need to be taken forward with full and equal participation of people with lived experience of mental or intellectual disability, including unpaid carers with lived experience of caring for someone with mental or intellectual disability.

Older People

[New guidance published to help care staff work effectively with issues of sexuality](#)

The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) has developed new guidance to help nurses and care staff work effectively with issues of sexuality, intimate relationships, sexual expression and sex, particularly for older people living in care homes. The guidance aims to facilitate learning, support best practice and serve as a resource to help nurses and care staff address the needs of older service users in a professional, sensitive, legal and practical way.

Other Health and Social Care

[Contextual paper on social work in Scotland published by Scottish Government](#)

The Scottish Government has published a paper describing the current status of social work in Scotland. It notes that social work is a unique profession that takes a holistic view of the person and, through relationship-based practice, has a role to play in reducing health inequalities, ensuring public protection, promoting social justice, upholding human rights and in challenging discrimination. The paper is part of a [collection of papers](#) which set out key information related to the development of the National Care Service (NCS) and includes evidence papers on Children's Social Services and Justice Social Work.

[RCN notifies NHS employers of intention to ballot members on strike action](#)

The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) Scotland has notified NHS employers of the intention to ballot RCN members working on Agenda for Change Contracts. Julie Lamberth, RCN Scotland Board Chair, said "strike action is the last resort for nursing staff, however, we have been left with no choice but to ballot our members". RCN notes that an indicative ballot during the summer showed that more than 90% of RCN members eligible to vote rejected the current pay offer.

[Public urged to support campaign for a new National Outcome on care](#)

Scottish Care, alongside over 45 organisations, have urged the public to back a campaign calling on the Scottish Government to create a new National Outcome on care. The "A Scotland that cares" campaign was created by Oxfam Scotland, Carers Scotland, the Scottish Women's Budget Group, Scottish Care and One Parent



Families Scotland and looks to amplify the voices of those directly impacted by care, either experiencing or providing it, at a time when the cost-of-living crisis is creating major new pressures.

[Winter Resilience Overview 2022-23 published by Scottish Government](#)

The Scottish Government has published its Health and Social Care Winter Resilience Overview for 2022-23, setting out the actions the Government is taking to support winter resilience across the health and care system. Actions set out in the overview include making £8 million funding available to support Boards in recruiting up to 750 additional nurses, midwives and allied health professionals from overseas, to boost the NHS workforce this Winter, allocation of £124m million to assist health and social care partnerships in expanding care at home capacity, and accelerating this year's national social care recruitment campaign, using materials and learning from previous campaigns to deliver in the Autumn.

[NMC publishes report on international recruitment of nurses and midwives](#)

The Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) has noted data previously published by the NMC showed a big rise in the number of professionals joining the register for the first time last year and is calling on health and social care employers to fully support internationally trained professionals into UK practice. The report highlights the NMC is currently developing a new workshop for professionals and employers which will aim to prepare internationally recruited nurses and midwives for the cultural and ethical differences of working in the UK, raise awareness of the NMC's role, improve retention and reduce the number for NMC referrals.

[Public protection framework for health boards](#)

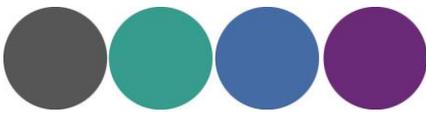
The NHS Public Protection Accountability and Assurance Framework has been published by the Scottish Government. It sets out evidence of high-quality, safe and effective services that promote the protection of children and adults. The Framework will guide health boards in assessing the adequacy and effectiveness of their public protection arrangements and aims to ensure greater consistency in what people can expect in terms of support and protection from all health services across the country.

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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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