




Adult and Health



[Covid-19 - General](#)

[End of Life/Palliative Care](#)

[Mental Health](#)

[Older People](#)

[Other Health & Social Care](#)

Covid-19 - General

[Regulations updated for the self-isolation discretionary payment](#)

The Scottish Government has added updated regulations for the Covid-19 self-isolation support discretionary payment. The Self-Isolation Support Grant (SISG) is administered by Local Authorities on behalf of the Government. It provides financial assistance for people on low-income who will experience reduced earnings as a result of them or their child being required to self-isolate or advised to stay at home to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

[First results from largescale study on long-Covid published](#)

STV news has reported that the first results of a largescale study into the effects of long-Covid carried out by Scottish researchers have been published. The study was led by the University of Glasgow and found that almost half of people that had Covid-19 were still suffering from symptoms up to 18 months after being infected. The study also revealed that long-Covid was more likely in cases of severe infection requiring hospitalisation.



[Evaluation of the Covid-19 vaccination programme published by PHS](#)

Public Health Scotland (PHS) has published a report evaluating the Covid-19 vaccination programme between 2020-2022. The report sets out a number of legacy lessons to consider for future vaccination programmes in Scotland, including lessons around public health information, communications and engagement, strategies to improve vaccine uptake, data and digital systems, and sustainability of future vaccination programmes. A [briefing paper](#) summarising the results of the evaluation has also been published.

End of Life/Palliative Care

[Proposed Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults \(Scotland\) Bill secures MSPs support](#)

Liam McArthur has secured support from MSPs to introduce his proposed Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill. The proposed Bill gained the support of 36 MSPs. The Bill would enable competent adults who are terminally ill to be provided at their request with assistance to end their life and to provide for the collection and reporting of relevant data.

Mental Health

[The Mental Welfare Commission has published its annual report for 2021-22](#)

The Mental Welfare Commission (MWC) has highlighted concerns over pressures on health and social care services in its latest annual report. The Commission noted more examples of increased pressures on health and social care staff while demand for services remains high is partly due to the Covid-19 pandemic, but many of the difficulties experienced by mental health and social care services were evident before 2020. The annual report outlines the Commission's activities in the year including supporting the Scottish Mental Health Law Review and examining racial inequality across mental health services in Scotland.

[Findings from the evaluation of the Suicide Bereavement Supporting Service pilot published](#)

A summary of the findings from the evaluation of the first year of the Suicide Bereavement Supporting Service (SBSS) pilot has been published by the Scottish Government. Penumbra and Support in Mind Scotland (SIMS) were commissioned to manage and deliver the pilot in two Health Board areas over two years. The pilot was launched in August 2021 with Penumbra leading delivery in Ayrshire and Arran and SIMS leading delivery in Highland. The report suggests there is evidence the service has had a positive impact on service users, most notably in helping them to cope better with day-to-day life and to improve their own mental wellbeing. The findings also note areas for improvement such as improving referral pathways into the service and increasing general awareness of the service.



[Tackling mental health inequalities brought about by financial insecurity](#)

The Scottish Association of Social Workers (SASW) has published a letter from the Minister for Mental Wellbeing and Social Care, Kevin Stewart, on the role of the Scottish Government's Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund (the Fund) in tackling mental health inequalities brought about by financial insecurity. In his letter, the Minister noted investment of £36 million over the last two years in the Fund, which was launched in October 2021. He also notes in its first year the Fund supported over 1800 projects across Scotland.

[New data shows strong demand for suicide prevention educational resources](#)

NHS Education for Scotland (NES) has published new data showing strong uptake for suicide prevention educational resources. NES reports there were over 65,500 views of the Ask, Tell, Respond adult animations, and 8,000 views of the children's version of the animation, with the animations being used widely across the country. It also noted 12 of the 19 Higher Educational Institutions (HEI's) and 12 of the 27 Further Education colleges (FE's) in Scotland access and use the resources within their programmes.

Older People

[New research suggests link between frailty in old age and living in deprived areas](#)

New research from the University of Edinburgh suggests people who spend part of their life living in socially deprived neighbourhoods are more likely to be frail in old age. The study found that living in deprived areas after the age of 40 leads to greater frailty in men and women, and that the more time men spent living in deprived areas during their childhood and mid-to-late adulthood, the greater the chances they would be frail by age 70.

Other Health and Social Care

[Care Inspectorate publishes new quality framework for nurse agencies](#)

Following our consultation and testing with inspectors, service providers and people who use services, we have published the new quality framework for nurse agencies. The primary purpose of the framework is to support services to self-evaluate their own performance. It will also be used by our inspectors to provide independent assurance about the quality of care and support. It reflects Scotland's Health and Social Care Standards, which are rights-based, person-led and outcome-focused.

[First hybrid Carers Parliament to take place on 9 November in Edinburgh](#)

The ALLIANCE has highlighted the first hybrid Carers Parliament will take place on Tuesday 9 November in Edinburgh. The event will include carer and young carer speakers, a contribution from the Minister for Mental Wellbeing and Social Care, Kevin Stewart MSP and a panel including the Minister, the COSLA Health and Wellbeing Spokesperson, a carer and carers centre manager taking questions from carers and talking about their views of what needs to improve in support for



carers. Online sessions for the Carers Parliament will also take place throughout November.

[SPICe has published a briefing on the National Care Service \(Scotland\) Bill](#)

The Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe) has published a briefing on the National Care Service (Scotland) Bill, providing an overview of the Bill, its provisions and highlighting specific areas for scrutiny. The paper notes that the Bill is a framework bill that lays the foundation for a national care service, allowing for the substantive detail to be co-designed at a later stage, with those who access support, deliver it and unpaid carers. It also notes the challenges for scrutiny that framework legislation presents due to its lack of detail.

[Research shows barriers to effective collaboration between third and public sector](#)

The Scottish Government has published the findings from research conducted to better understand the barriers to effective collaboration between third sector organisations and the public sector. The report notes four primary areas that present frequent challenges for collaboration between third sector, local government, and national government, such as funding, meaningful collaboration, procurement and lack of trust, with lack of trust being a cross-cutting concern which affects each of the other identified themes.

[SCIE highlights how care providers can help spot warning signs of financial abuse](#)

The Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) has published an article on financial abuse within families and how care providers can help. The article, written by adult safeguarding consultant, Jennifer Hawkswood, suggests care providers can help by spotting the warning signs of financial abuse by families, such as care free debt, lack of personal allowance being provided, items of value going missing, misuse of Power of Attorney (POA), and individuals pressured in relation to money or assets.

[BASW article highlights the complexities of implementing strike action](#)

The British Association of Social Workers (BASW) has published an article on the difference between the BASW and the Social Workers Union (SWU) and the complexities of implementing strike action. The article, written by John McGowan, General Secretary of the SWU, notes SWU is an independent trade union whereas BASW is a professional association, and highlights SWU members are better protected and their rights to representation in any meeting with an employer are safeguarded. It also notes that SWU and BASW work together through a cooperation agreement to provide a highly beneficial and cost effective optional joint membership.

**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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