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and
Health



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Covid-19 – General

[Scottish Government publishes final Coronavirus Act report](#)

The Scottish Government has published the fifteenth and final report to the Scottish Parliament on the Coronavirus Acts.

[Public Health Scotland update guidance for HPTs](#)

Public Health Scotland has updated Covid-19 guidance for Health Protection Teams (HPTs). The guidance is now reflective of the lack of testing for health care workers, as well as reflecting current guidance for social and community and residential care testing guidance.

[Letter from Minister to Covid-19 Recovery Committee](#)

Minister for Public Health Women's Health and Sport Maree Todd MSP has written to the Covid-19 Recovery Committee setting out the government's response to the committee's recommendations on the communication of public health information and messaging related to Covid-19. Ms Todd says learning from the Covid-19 pandemic is informing ongoing work to prepare communication plans for future pandemics and that communications and marketing campaigns will continue to encourage safety behaviours which protect those at highest risk.



[Latest modelling of Covid-19 published by Scottish Government](#)

The Scottish Government has published its latest findings in modelling the spread and level of Covid-19 in Scotland. It notes the reproduction rate R in Scotland is currently estimated as being between 0.9 and 1.2, as of 27th September. Both the lower limit and the upper limit have increased since the last publication.

Alcohol and Drugs

[Digital Lifelines launch small grant fund to support digital inclusivity](#)

Digital Lifelines have launched a small grants fund to support digital inclusion activities, reports the Alliance. The fund is for people at risk of death from a drug overdose and for those who support and care for them. Local community and voluntary organisations can apply for up to £10,000 for up to 12 months. Applications close on Friday 18 November at 12noon.

[Scottish Government urges drug support services to apply for funding support](#)

The Scottish Government has encouraged drug support services to apply for a share of £65m to reduce drug deaths and help people recover from addiction. The funding is being channelled through the Local Support Fund, which is open year-round, and two further funding pots which are reopening from 20 October 2022 – the Improvement Fund, for organisations delivering residential rehabilitation and associated services, and the Children and Families Fund, which gives financial help to those working with the loved ones of those affected.

Alzheimer's/Dementia

[Alzheimer Scotland call for informal participation on government dementia strategy](#)

The Scottish Government recently launched a consultation process for the 4th National Dementia Strategy. The Government are looking for input from people with lived experience to inform the strategy, and ultimately improve quality of life for people with dementia and their carers. Alzheimer Scotland is supporting this by inviting people with lived experience to join informal meetings to voice their opinions, both in person and online, to ensure accurate participation in the consultation.

Care Homes/Care at Home

[Carers Scotland publish State of Caring 2022 report](#)

Carers Scotland have published the State of Caring report, a survey of over 2000 carers which highlights the struggles facing unpaid carers due to the cost-of-living crisis. The report details that 35% of carers are spending 20% of their income or more on energy with 19% of the lowest income carers spending more than 50% on energy bills. Furthermore, the report highlights that cutting back on essentials is putting the health of carers and the older and disabled people they support at risk. The survey urges both the UK and Scottish Governments to increase support for



carers to ensure they can continue providing support to the most vulnerable in society over the winter.

Women's Health

[Experience of maternity and pregnancy service during Covid-19 wanted](#)

The Health and Social Care Academy, part of the Alliance, is working with Engender on a survey of women's experience of pregnancy or trying to become pregnant during the Covid-19 pandemic. The purpose of the survey is to gather information about experience of maternity and pregnancy in Scotland during the Covid-19 pandemic to inform support on helping to improve women's health and wellbeing. With reports of restrictions across hospitals and healthcare settings including sexual health clinics, GPs, and midwife-led maternity units throughout the Covid-19 pandemic and restrictions varying depending on health boards the survey aims to collate personable responses of individual experiences. The survey is open for responses until week beginning 14 November 2022.

[Experiences of menstrual health and menopause at work survey launched](#)

The Alliance is partnering with The University of Glasgow and the Scottish Government to explore experiences of menstrual health and menopause at work for NHS employees. This will be the first nationwide survey of its kind to consider how healthcare employees view the relationship between both menstrual health or menopause and work. Findings will help to shape the [Scottish Government Women's Health Plan](#) and inform the development of a menopause and menstrual health policy for NHS Scotland.

Older People

[Charity warns one in five over 65s at risk of malnutrition in Scotland](#)

Scottish Charity, Food Train, has warned that almost one in five over 65s are at risk of malnutrition due to the cost-of-living crisis, reports the Herald. Food Train, which provides services such as grocery deliveries and home cooking for older people, said that rates of malnutrition are being worryingly under-reported. Research undertaken as part of Food Train's Eat Well Age Well project - in partnership with other organisations across Scotland - has screened 2,756 over-65s for signs of malnourishment since January 2019. The research found that 17% were at risk, however the accuracy of the findings were highlighted to be 'the tip of the iceberg'.

Workforce

[GMC publish workforce report 2022](#)

The General Medical Council (GMC) has published its workforce report 2022. The report highlights the barriers preventing doctors from being able to meet the high level of demand. The GMC is calling for a relaxation of rules so skilled doctors in non-training roles can undertake a wider range of work within primary care. The report shows that the number of doctors in those roles is growing at six times the



rate of GPs. By 2030 they could be the largest group in the medical workforce. However, existing rules restrict the roles those doctors can fulfil.

[Health and Social Care Alliance Regulation Conference 24 October](#)

Professional Health and Social Care Regulation: Looking to the Future conference will be an all-day event held on 24 October in the Edinburgh International Conference Centre. Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social care, Humza Yousaf MSP will open the conference. This is a key event for those involved in leading, shaping and overseeing health and social care professional regulation in the UK.

[IRISS contributing to Glasgow Council for Voluntary Services online event](#)

IRISS will contribute to a Glasgow Council for Voluntary Services online event on 27 October that will explore what ethical commissioning means for the National Care Service (NCS) and the social care and voluntary sector. Challenges of commissioning in social care was acknowledged in the Feeley Review. There will also be input on community commissioning in Scotland and work going on in Wales to deliver care in a more ethical and person-centred way.

Other Health and Social Care

[Scottish Government publish Independence Economy Paper](#)

The Scottish Government has published the paper, 'Building a New Scotland: A stronger economy with independence', and an accompanying [summary](#) paper. As part of the Building a New Scotland process, the government has also published a '[what you need to know](#)' overview on independence which includes information published so far in relation to business and fair work, currency and economy, energy and climate change, the European Union, and international relations. The page will be used for signposting to key information in the Building a New Scotland papers as they are published, with updates made as new information becomes available.

[BBC programme investigates care of people with learning disabilities in hospitals](#)

Learning Disability Today has highlighted a new BBC programme, 'Will the NHS Care for Me?' that found that people with learning disabilities are treated differently in NHS hospitals than able bodied people, being twice as likely to die from avoidable causes. Out of 3500 deaths of people with learning disabilities reviewed by the production team the NHS found that nearly a third of cases had no evidence of good practice. Lack of learning disability nurses, and the continued decline of 5500 nurses in 2019 to just 3200 in 2022 was raised as a reason for poor care.

[Revised Charter of Patient Rights and Responsibilities published](#)

The Scottish Government has published a revised Charter of Patient Rights and Responsibilities up to June 2022 which summarises what people are entitled to when they use NHS services and receive NHS care in Scotland, and what they can do if they feel their rights have not been respected. Health and Social Care Standards are mentioned on p.27 of the report in relation to coming into effect in April 2018 and



directing to the Government's health and social care integration page for more information.

[Government outlines actions taken to fulfil human rights for everyone in Scotland](#)

The Scottish Government has published a position statement for the UK's Universal Periodic Review (UPR) 2022. It sets out the actions taken in devolved areas since 2017 to respect, protect, and fulfil the human rights of everyone in Scotland. The UPR is a review of the overall human rights records of all UN Member States and is coordinated by the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC). The statement notes the Scottish Government has accepted all 30 of the recommendations from the National Taskforce for Human Rights Leadership for a new human rights framework for Scotland.

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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