



4 – 10 November 2022



bulletin

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### **Covid-19 – General**

[Latest national flu and Covid-19 surveillance report published](#)

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has published its latest weekly national influenza and Covid-19 report. It notes that at a national level, Covid-19 activity has decreased in most indicators in week 43 of 2022. It also notes swab test positivity for influenza has continued to increase and is now at 6.1%. It is highest in 15 to 44 year-olds at 13.4%, followed by 5 to 14 year-olds at 10.4%.

[Second Pfizer/BioNTech bivalent Covid-19 vaccine approved](#)

A Pfizer/BioNTech 'bivalent' Covid vaccine that targets both the original strain of SARS-CoV-2 and the Omicron BA.4 and BA.5 sub-variants has been approved by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). The vaccine has been approved for use as a booster dose in individuals aged 12 years and above. [Comirnaty 10 micrograms](#) concentrate for dispersion for injection has also been approved for use as a booster for 5- to 11-year-olds.



## Alcohol and Drugs

### [New report published on public attitudes towards people with problem drug use](#)

The report, published by the Scottish Government, presents the findings from the 2021/22 Scottish Social Attitudes Survey (SSA) conducted between the 21 October 2021 and 27 March 2022. It notes the vast majority (91%) of those interviewed agreed that 'it's in all our interests' to help those with problem drug use. It also notes that only 3% of people thought that individuals with problem drug use pose 'no risk' to the safety of others, while 38% think they pose a 'small risk,' 41% a 'moderate risk' and 17% 'a big risk.'

### [Funding creates additional residential rehabilitation and detox capacity](#)

The Scottish Government has highlighted an increase in residential rehabilitation capacity at a drug service in Lothian through Scottish Government funding. The Lothian and Edinburgh Abstinence Programme (LEAP) has added eight residential rehabilitation places and four detox places - bringing the total number to 28 and 12 respectively - in one of the first projects to be funded through the Residential Rehabilitation Rapid Capacity Programme.

## Alzheimer's/Dementia

### [Charity announces UK's first Outdoor Dementia Resource Centre](#)

Alzheimer Scotland has announced its initiative aimed at helping people with dementia, and their families, benefit from time spent outdoors has been made permanent due to funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. The funding will allow for the opening of the UK's first Outdoor Dementia Resource Centre which will give people with dementia and their carers a chance to meet up in a change of environment and have fun together.

### [£50,000 in funding announced to develop dementia meeting centres](#)

Age Scotland and About Dementia have launched a new round of funding worth £50,000 for organisations across Scotland looking to develop [Meeting Centres](#) for people affected by dementia. The 'Meeting Centres Seedcorn Fund' is offering five awards of £10,000 for community groups and organisations who would like to open a local Meeting Centre. The funding is part of wider funding by the Scottish Government to support the growth of Dementia Friendly Communities and Meeting Centres across Scotland. The closing date for applications is 2 December 2022.

## Other Health and Social Care

### [RCN members at most NHS employers vote to take strike action](#)

The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) announced members at a majority of NHS employers across the UK have voted to take strike action over fair pay and safe staffing. This includes all NHS employers in Scotland. Industrial action is expected to



begin before the end of this year, with more detailed plans and timelines to be announced.

### [Summary of responses to the National Care Service \(Scotland\) Bill consultation published](#)

A summary of responses to the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee's call for views on the National Care Service (Scotland) Bill has been published by the Scottish Parliament. A total of 216 responses were received to the general call for views on the Bill. The summary brief notes a number of overarching concerns with the Bill, including removing control of social services from local authorities to Scottish Ministers. It also notes frustration at the overall lack of detail because the Bill is a framework bill, which also poses challenges for scrutiny.

### [We have updated our quality framework for housing support services](#)

In response to our learning from the pandemic and to incorporate a clearer focus on infection prevention and control, we have now updated our quality framework for housing support services. We have made important updates to reflect the changing practice and policy context in which care and support is now provided.

These updates include:

- separation of standalone housing support services and offender accommodation services. Each will now have their own framework.
- removing key question 7 and adding a new quality indicator 1.5, 'People's health and wellbeing benefits from safe infection prevention and control practice and procedures.
- introducing 'core assurances'. These are some things we will always look at on our inspections because they are key areas that are essential to a service being safe.

From 8 November, all housing support services inspections will be undertaken using the updated framework and there will be no further use of key question 7 during inspections.

### [New Open Badge award introduced for safe and effective staffing](#)

We have introduced a new Open Badge award for safe and effective staffing which can be accessed on the [SSSC Open Badge Website](#). An Open Badge is a digital certificate which recognises learning and achievement. There are four hours of learning with four different outcomes:

- knowledge of the Health and Care (Staffing) (Scotland) Act 2019 and the guiding principles and duties.
- knowledge and understanding of the Care Inspectorate's safe staffing programme.
- knowledge on how the legislation applies to your care setting.
- knowledge at an informed level of the fundamentals of health and care staffing, workload and workforce planning, managing and using workload and workforce data and quality assurance and governance.



### [Joint inspection of adult services in Fife found clear strengths in integrated services](#)

A joint inspection of adult services, focusing on the outcomes and experiences of adults with physical disabilities and complex needs in the Fife Health and Social Care Partnership, has found clear strengths in how integrated health and social care services are positively supporting people's health and wellbeing outcomes. Inspectors found that most people had positive experiences of integrated and person-centred health and social care, which supported an improved quality of life. Inspectors also identified areas for improvement for the partnership, including continuing to drive targeted efforts to improve outcomes for people and carers and make sure it has an integrated approach to providing information and advice.

### [Findings from the Scottish Health Survey 2021 have been published](#)

The Scottish Government has published the Scottish Health Survey 2021, providing information on the health of adults and children in Scotland. Key findings from the survey suggest the average levels of mental wellbeing were lower in 2021 than in 2019, with women's average mental health scores falling more than those for men. The findings also suggest that 5% of all adults reported having long Covid, and 3% of adults reported ever having a problem with drugs. The publication includes the [main report](#), alongside a [summary report](#) and [technical report](#).

### [Terms of reference for the Patient Safety Commissioner for Scotland Bill Advisory Group](#)

The Scottish Government has published the terms of reference and a [summary overview](#) for the Patient Safety Commissioner for Scotland Bill Advisory Group. The purpose of the Group is to advise on the establishment of a Patient Safety Commissioner for Scotland (PSC). The Group is made up of both patients who have experience of using health services in Scotland ('patient representatives') and members of organisations involved in overseeing and/or delivering patient care in Scotland ('professional representatives')

### [Research exploring how new benefit for carers in Scotland should work](#)

The Scottish Government is becoming responsible for some of the benefits currently delivered by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and has published findings from research with Social Security Experience Panel members exploring their views on proposals on how Scottish Carer's Assistance (SCA) could be different from Carer's Allowance. Carer's Allowance will be replaced by SCA and will be provided by Social Security Scotland (SSS). The report notes 71% of survey respondents agreed with setting Scottish Carer's Assistance to £0 for any week a carer earns too much money. A [visual summary](#) outlining the main findings has also been published.

### [State of Caring in Scotland 2022 report published](#)

The ALLIANCE has highlighted the publication of the latest State of Caring in Scotland report. The report, published by Carers Scotland, is based on a survey of



2,044 unpaid carers which was carried out between July and September 2022. The report makes a number of recommendations including uprating all benefits including Carer's Allowance and the Carer's Element of Universal Credit by inflation and providing a top up payment for all carers with an entitlement to Carer's Allowance.

### [Hospital experiences for autistic people and those with a learning disability \(England\)](#)

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has published a report on the experiences of being in hospital for people with a learning disability and autistic people. The report looked at access to care, communication, care and treatment in hospital, protected characteristics and equality of care and workforce skills and development. Key findings from the report suggest that people found it difficult to access care because reasonable adjustments weren't always made. It also notes that people are not being fully involved in their care and treatment, suggesting that providers need to ensure staff have the right skills and time to listen to people and their families.

### [National delivery plan launched on 'Care in the Digital Age'](#)

A national delivery plan has been published by the Scottish Government describing the activities that are underway to support Health Boards, HSCPs, local authorities, primary care, social care, social work, and care providers to offer new or improved services, through improved systems and infrastructure, or access to digital services. The 'Care in the Digital Age: Delivery Plan 2022-23' follows on from the publication of the government's 'Care in the Digital Age' strategy which was published in October 2021. The plan notes six priority areas including digital access, digital skills and leadership, digital services, digital futures, digital foundations, and data driven services and insights.

### [Voting now open for RCN's next President](#)

The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) has announced the election to decide on the next RCN President is now open. Voting will be conducted by postal ballot and will close on 5 December. The four candidates in the running are:

- Professor Julie Green FRCN
- Tristan Griffin
- Sheila Sobrany
- Maria Trewern

### [Social Work Scotland calls on social workers to share their experience of leadership](#)

Iriss has highlighted Social Work Scotland is looking to gain insight into social worker experience of leadership. A number of focus groups will be held throughout November and will be facilitated by Iriss. Focus groups are planned for the following dates:

- Monday 14 November, 11-12.30pm: Newly qualified social workers
- Thursday 17 November, 2-4,30pm: Social workers
- Monday 21 November, 11-12.30pm: Team leaders



## 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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