



18 – 24 November 2022



bulletin

A row of four overlapping circles in shades of grey, teal, blue, and purple. The purple circle contains a white letter 'A' that is part of the main title.

Adult and Health

[Alcohol and Drugs](#)

[Alzheimer's/Dementia](#)

[Care Homes/Care at Home](#)

[Justice](#)

[Older People](#)

[Workforce](#)

[Other Health & Social Care](#)

Alcohol and Drugs

[National Mission on Drugs annual report 2021-22 sets out progress made](#)

The Scottish Government has set out the progress made between January 2021 and March 2022 towards reducing drug deaths and improving the lives of those impacted by drugs in Scotland. The annual report outlines the progress made in 2021-22 in relation to the six outcomes in the National Mission Plan and the six cross cutting priorities. It notes that Alcohol and Drugs Partnerships (ADPs) have been working to develop meaningful ways to involve people affected by substance use in decisions made locally and an additional £0.5 million was allocated to ADPs in 2021/22 to progress this work.



[New family drugs treatment service now open to support parents and their children](#)

Harper House in Saltcoats was awarded over £8 million in Scottish Government grant funding to establish a family rehabilitation service which would allow parents to care for their family while in recovery. The service aims to make it easier for parents to access treatment by allowing mothers or fathers to care for their family while in recovery with the help of the centre's staff who support child development, parenting skills and the overall health and wellbeing of all family members. The Harper House facility can support up to 20 families at one time for placements between three and six months long.

[Summary of responses to the Scottish ADP annual survey has been published](#)

A summary of responses to the Scottish Alcohol and Drug Partnership (ADP) annual survey has been published by the Scottish Government. The survey aims to show the progress of the National Mission by providing information of the activity undertaken by ADPs. The key findings from the survey note that the majority of ADPs reported having established early warning systems for drugs, all ADPs reported involvement of people with lived experience and family members affected by substance use within their services, and the majority of ADPs have reported arrangements to involve people with lived experience in different areas of delivery.

[New report highlights impact of minimum unit pricing on alcohol sales](#)

Public Health Scotland (PHS) has published its report on the impact of minimum unit pricing (MUP) on alcohol sales in Scotland after three years of implementation. Key findings from the report suggests MUP has meant a net reduction of 3% in the total volume of pure alcohol sold per adult in Scotland. The report concludes that MUP has been effective in reducing alcohol consumption in the first three years of being implemented.

Alzheimer's/Dementia

[Charity launches Winter Essentials Fund](#)

Alzheimer Scotland has launched its Winter Essentials fund which aims to provide families with £50 grants as an additional support for the coming winter months. The fund is open for applications from unpaid carers of someone with dementia, including if they are in a care home, and people living with a diagnosis. The fund launched on 17 November 2022 and is open for a period of 3 months.

[14 projects awarded over £145,000 to support people affected by dementia](#)

Age Scotland has highlighted 14 projects which have been awarded funding to enable them to offer grassroots, community-based support for people affected by dementia. A total of £145,921 worth of grants have been awarded through the About Dementia, Age Scotland and Scottish Government partnership fund which is part of a broader £1 million investment by the Scottish Government.



Care Homes/Care at Home

[Scottish Care's annual care home awards winners announced](#)

Scottish Care announced the winners of its 2022 Care Home Awards at an awards ceremony held on 18 November. This year's awards included nurse of the year award, leadership award, care worker of the year award, and many more.

[Constella Opera Ballet has invited care homes to attend online concert](#)

Constella OperaBallet are hosting a St Andrews Day online concert on 30 November and have invited care homes to attend. The free online concert is part of Constella's [Connecting Stars](#) programme which offers care homes free weekly performances with some of the UK's most exciting professional musicians and dancers. The event will take place over an optimized zoom set up.

Justice

[HM Inspectorate of Prosecution in Scotland annual report 2021-2022 published](#)

The HM Inspectorate of Prosecution in Scotland (IPS) annual report sets out the work of the IPS between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022, noting that in this period, IPS published an inspection of how Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) manages criminal allegations against the police. IPS concluded that the quality of decision making by COPFS in such cases is good but also found that there is scope for improvement and made a number of recommendations. The annual report also notes that the IPS commenced two new inspections in this period.

Older People

[Age Scotland urges energy suppliers to improve service to older customers](#)

The charity has called on energy suppliers to improve their service to older people following an Ofgem report which found that many vulnerable customers were being failed by their providers. Age Scotland highlighted that a survey carried out earlier this year found that 76% of older people were concerned about paying their fuel bills before the rise in the cost of energy, and less than half found it straightforward to contact their energy supplier.

[DWP announces payments up to £600 for pensioners to help with energy bills](#)

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) announced that from 23 November 2022 over 11.6 million pensioners in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland will start to receive up to £600 to help with their energy bills this winter. The DWP has noted that the online Pension Credit calculator is available to help pensioners to check if they're eligible and to get an estimate of what they may receive.



Workforce

[Staff vacancies in care services 2021 report published by Care Inspectorate and SSSC](#)

The report, published by the Care Inspectorate and the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC), provides data on vacancies reported by care services as at 31 December 2021. It notes the percentage of care services reporting vacancies increased to its highest level since these statistics were first published for the year 2016, with 47% of services reporting vacancies as of 31 December 2021. The percentage of care services reporting vacancies increased by 11 percentage points over the last year. The report also notes that 58% of services with vacancies reported having problems filling those vacancies.

[Royal College of Nursing Awards are now open for nominations](#)

The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) has launched the RCN Awards and is encouraging its members to nominate colleagues and other notable nursing staff in one of the four categories of the awards. Nominations for the awards close on 16 January 2023. The four categories include:

- RCN Fellowship and Honorary Fellowship
- RCN Award of Merit
- Representative of the Year Award
- RCN Student Ambassador of the Year Award

[Royal College of Nursing launches new educational portal](#)

The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) has highlighted the launch of its new learning hub for the nursing profession. RCN Learn provides all RCN nursing learning resources in one place, bringing together content from RCN and RCNi.

[SSSC has highlighted data sharing request from Public Health Scotland](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has noted it has been asked to share data on SSSC registered staff working in care home services for adults with Public Health Scotland (PHS) to help them and the Scottish Government with their public health monitoring work relating to Covid-19 vaccination. PHS is collating data on vaccination uptake by care home residents and SSSC registered care home staff in individual adult care homes, which will be used by the Scottish Government to continue to monitor progress, support vaccine uptake and identify where future promotion and delivery needs to be targeted.

Other Health and Social Care

[Statutory guidance on Self-directed Support updated by Scottish Government](#)

The Scottish Government has updated its statutory guidance on the Social Care (Self-Directed Support) (Scotland) Act 2013. The updated guidance now includes an executive summary, additional information on human rights and a human rights based approach, updated information about legislation that has come into force



since 2014, incorporation of parts of the pandemic guidance on Self-directed Support (SDS) published in March 2022, and other additions. An [easy read](#) version of the updated guidance and a [summary document](#) is also available.

[Government sets out actions taken to implement human rights in public policy](#)

The Scottish Government has published its position statement on the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), setting out the action taken by the Government in devolved areas to implement ICESCR. The ICESCR commits State parties to work to secure the full enjoyment of economic, social, and cultural rights by everyone under their jurisdiction. The position statement sets out the progress made in putting human rights at the heart of public policy and public administration in Scotland. It noted actions taken to incorporate the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) into domestic law and commitment to introduce a Human Rights Bill during this parliamentary session.

[Healthcare Improvement Scotland and Scottish Government operating framework](#)

Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS) and the Scottish Government have published an operating framework which sets how both organisations work together. The framework includes HIS' operating principles and approach to delivering the expectations of Scottish Government. It notes that the operating framework will support an effective, strategic working arrangement between HIS and Scottish Government based on a shared understanding of respective roles and responsibilities.

[Digital Health and Care conference to be held in Glasgow](#)

The ALLIANCE has highlighted the Scottish Government's Digital Health and Care Fest 2022 conference on 30 November. The in-person conference is taking place at the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, and will be launched by Humza Yousaf, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care and Cllr. Paul Kelly, Social Care and COSLA spokesperson for Health and Social Care.

[New Wellbeing Economy Toolkit launched by Scottish Government](#)

The Scottish Government has highlighted the launch of the Wellbeing Economy Toolkit, which enables local authorities to identify and measure local wellbeing metrics including health, child poverty, levels of greenhouse gas emissions and fair work, and prioritise investments and policies to improve them. The Toolkit was informed by the Wellbeing Economy Pilot project in Clackmannanshire and is intended as a resource for those involved in developing economic strategy and place-based economic development policy.

[SCVO has published its response to the Emergency Budget Review](#)

The Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) has written to Deputy First Minister, John Swinney, following the Emergency Budget Review. SCVO has noted



the lack of recognition of the challenges faced by voluntary organisations, staff, and volunteers. Anna Fowlie, SCVO Chief Executive, said “The Scottish Government should lead by example by supporting departments across the local and national government to resource voluntary organisations to uplift wages and pay the Real Living Wage, as has been the case for public sector staff.”

[SCLD blog on meeting with the Minister for Mental Wellbeing and Social Care](#)

The Scottish Commission for People with Learning Disabilities (SCLD) has published a blog following a meeting between Kevin Stewart, Minister for Mental Wellbeing and Social Care, and its Include for Good Rapporteurs. The meeting focused on 8 topics which were drawn from personal experiences, including employment, health, identity, transport, media and culture, education, access to justice, and lifelong support.

[Independent review into oversight of integrated care systems announced \(England\)](#)

The Department of Health and Social Care has announced a new independent review of integrated care systems (ICS) to reduce disparities and improve health outcomes. Former Health Secretary, Rt Hon Patricia Hewitt, has been appointed as chair of the review. The review will consider the scope for a smaller number of national targets to empower local health and care leaders and enable greater autonomy, how local performance could be better monitored and any local targets set, how to ensure new ICSs are held to account, and the relationship between ICSs and central bodies.

[The ALLIANCE are hosting an online lecture on human rights](#)

The ALLIANCE will host an online lecture exploring dignity, human rights based approaches and human rights culture in Scotland on 7 December. The Being Human lecture series explores the importance of embedding human rights into health and social care policy and practice, and looks to highlight the stigma, discrimination and inequality faced by disabled people, people living with long term conditions and unpaid carers in Scotland. This lecture will be delivered by Dr Elaine Webster, senior lecturer in law at the University of Strathclyde.

**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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