




Adult and Health



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Covid-19 - General

[Latest modelling of Covid-19 in Scotland published](#)

The Scottish Government has released the latest findings in modelling Covid-19 in Scotland. The report notes that the reproduction rate in Scotland is currently estimated as being between 0.8 and 1.0, and the number of new daily infections is estimated as being between 115 and 271 per 100,000 people (as at 8 November). The report also includes results from the most recent wave of the Scottish Contact Survey, noting a decrease in people's average contacts from the previous wave of the survey.



Alcohol and Drugs

[Funding to expand residential rehabilitation capacity has reopened](#)

The Scottish Government has announced the latest round of funding for the Residential Rehabilitation Rapid Capacity Programme 2 (RRRCP 2). Not-for profit organisations who support people with problem drug use are now being invited to apply for funding to expand their residential rehabilitation provision. Improving equity of access across Scotland has been identified as a priority for this funding cycle and projects which look to increase services in areas where residential rehabilitation provision is lower will be given priority. The deadline for applications is 9 January 2023. Updated [guidance](#) on applying for the RRRCP 2 has also been published by Scottish Government.

[Updated guidance published on national drugs mission funds](#)

The Scottish Government has provided updated guidance for the national drugs mission funds to reflect the new funding cycle. The national mission to reduce drugs related deaths and harms was announced in January 2021 and is supported by funding of £50 million per year for the next five years. £18 million of this is now being made available through four funds, service improvement fund, local support fund, recovery fund, and children and families fund. The guidance notes that these funds will be available for this year and the next four years and therefore multi-year applications are welcome.

[PHS is evaluating evidence of the effects of minimum unit pricing](#)

Public Health Scotland (PHS) is conducting an evaluation of the evidence of the effects of minimum unit pricing (MUP) on alcohol, which came into effect in May 2018. The evaluation looks to answer whether MUP has contributed to reducing health harms related to alcohol, and whether some people and businesses are more affected (positively or negatively) than others. An [analysis plan](#) for the evaluation of the impact of MUP pricing on deaths and hospital admissions in Scotland has also been published.

Alzheimer's/Dementia

[New report highlights impact of Covid-19 on people with dementia](#)

Secondary analysis of National Records of Scotland deaths data relating to people with dementia during the coronavirus pandemic in different settings for the period 2020-2022 has been published by the Scottish Government. The report notes that in 2020 excess deaths involving dementia was "proportionally greater than excess deaths from all causes". The secondary analysis also notes that deaths involving dementia at home or non-institutional settings continued to remain at above average levels in 2021.



Care Homes/Care at Home

[Scottish Care has launched new campaign to raise the profile of social care](#)

Scottish Care has officially launched its 'Social Care Campaign' which aims to raise the profile of social care in Scotland, across care homes and homecare. Scottish Care is producing videos as part of this campaign and is now looking for examples which highlight the relationships between care home residents, homecare service users and their care workers and any activities undertaken in the sector.

[Project to use AI and robot technology to detect UTIs at an early stage](#)

The 'Feather' project will be led by University of Edinburgh and Heriot-Watt University researchers, using artificial intelligence (AI) and robot technology in a bid to detect urinary tract infections (UTIs) at an early stage and reduce some of the negative consequences of late diagnosis, STV News reports. Care home residents are set to become some of the first beneficiaries of the project, as Scotland's national respite centre, Leuchie House, and Blackwood Homes and Care are partnering with researchers looking to develop a machine, learning methods and interactions for socially assistive robots that could support earlier detection of a potential infection and raise an alert for investigation by a clinician.

Mental Health

[New guidance published to support local action on suicide prevention](#)

Public Health Scotland (PHS) has published three new pieces of guidance to support local action on suicide prevention. The guidance has been developed in partnership with local suicide prevention leads, those with lived and living experience, and other stakeholders. The suite of guidance includes:

- [National Guidance on Identifying and Responding to a Suicide Cluster](#)
- [National Guidance on Action to Address Suicides at Locations of Concern](#)
- [National Guidance on Managing the Risks of Public Memorials After a Probable Suicide](#)

[Improving care for people with mental health and substance use conditions](#)

Recommendations made to the Scottish Government on how to improve care for people with co-occurring mental health and substance use conditions have been published. The recommendations come from the Rapid Review of Co-Occurring Substance Use and Mental Health Conditions in Scotland and include recommendations around protocols relating to operational interfaces between mental health services and substance use services, improving data collection, annual population needs assessment in relation to substance use treatment capacity, and a specific rapid review for alcohol treatment services.



[Advice for services supporting discharges from hospital for adults with incapacity](#)

The Scottish Government and the Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland have issued an updated joint statement on supporting discharges from hospital for adults with incapacity. The statement highlights the actions that can be taken to support the discharge of adults with incapacity from hospital.

Older People

[Evidence paper highlights detrimental effect of pandemic on older adults' mental health](#)

The Scottish Government has published an evidence paper on older adults' mental health before and during the Covid-19 pandemic. The paper notes that the pandemic appeared to have a detrimental effect on older adults' mental health, particularly loneliness. It also highlighted that even though older adults (65+) report better mental health outcomes than younger adults, this might reflect that they are less likely to report poor mental health.

[Age Scotland has appointed new Chief Executive](#)

The charity announced that Mark O'Donnell has been appointed as the new chief executive and will take up his post in January 2023. Mark has two decades of experience in the public and third sectors, including as chief executive of the Sight Scotland group.

Workforce

[RCN to consult members in Scotland on revised pay offer from Scottish Government](#)

The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) will consult its members in Scotland on the Scottish Government's pay offer. Members employed on an NHS Scotland Agenda for Change will be asked if they accept or reject the revised pay offer which includes a pay increase of different percentages depending on the band they are on.

[Applications now open for Leading Digital Transformation in Health and Care](#)

NES (NHS Education for Scotland) has announced that the Leading Digital Transformation in Health and Care for Scotland is now open for applications. The master's level programme will be delivered by the University of Edinburgh and led by NES. Scottish Government funding has been provided for year one (PGCert) and year two (PGDip) for up to 60 participants. The application deadline is 15 January 2023.

[SSSC announces next steps for making changes to its Register](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has confirmed changes to its Register will go ahead following approval from the SSSC Council. The SSSC is working on plans for implementing the changes over the next 18 months and will announce



details and timescales over the coming months. The SSSC is due to complete the changes to the Register, qualifications and Codes of Practice by 2024.

Other Health and Social Care

[RCN members discussed the findings of a review into the culture of the RCN](#)

The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) has published a summary of its Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM), which was held to give its members an opportunity to discuss the findings of an independent review into the culture of RCN. The Chair of the RCN Council, Carol Popplestone, informed members on what action has been taken in response to the issues highlighted in the review, including the creation of a new equality, diversity and inclusion strategy which is due to be published next month.

[Iriss to host event on commissioning social care and support](#)

Iriss will host an online event on creative approaches to commissioning social care and support. The event will take place on 13 December and includes speakers Pauline Lunn, Director of In Control Scotland; Ian Thomson, NHS Highland's Head of Service for Quality Assurance in Adult Social Care; Louise Bowen, Development Lead for Iriss; and Josie Vallely, Development Lead and Service Designer for Iriss.

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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