



Adult
and
Health



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Covid-19 - General

[Funding applications process opens for Covid-19 Inquiry](#)

The Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry has launched its application process for those wishing to claim funding from the Inquiry to cover legal expenses. Applications can be submitted until 11:59pm on 31 January 2023.

[Guidance for workplaces in reducing Covid risk](#)

The Scottish Government has published guidance for businesses and workplaces on reducing the risk of Covid-19 and supporting staff and customers. It provides advice on steps that can be taken to help reduce the risk of transmission of Covid-19 to create a safer environment.



Carers

[Easy read National Carers Strategy](#)

The Scottish Government has published an easy read version of its National Carers Strategy. This strategy sets out a range of actions to ensure unpaid carers are supported fully in a joined up and cohesive way.

Disabilities

[Disabled Children and Young People \(Transitions to Adulthood\) \(Scotland\) Bill](#)

The Scottish Parliament has published a briefing on the Disabled Children and Young People (Transitions to Adulthood) (Scotland) Bill, which is a Member's Bill, introduced by Pam Duncan-Glancy MSP and aims to improve outcomes for disabled children and young people in the transition to adulthood. Broadly speaking the Bill seeks to achieve this by providing for a National Transitions Strategy and a transitions plan for each disabled child or young person.

[Proposed Disability Commissioner \(Scotland\) Bill](#)

Jeremy Balfour MSP has secured the right to introduce his proposed Disability Commissioner (Scotland) Bill after receiving cross-party MSP support from the Conservatives, Labour, and the Liberal Democrats. The Bill proposes establishing a Disability Commissioner for Scotland.

Health

[Strep A Public Health Scotland update](#)

Public Health Scotland (PHS) has published the latest data on Group A strep (GAS) in Scotland, showing recent increases of GAS may be declining, with the more serious Invasive GAS infections remaining stable and similar to previous years.

[Gender Recognition Reform \(Scotland\) Bill has been passed by Scottish Parliament](#)

The Scottish Parliament has passed the Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill. The legislation intends to improve the system by which transgender people can apply for legal recognition through a Gender Recognition Certificate and includes safeguards to prevent misuse of this system.

Older People

[Many older people do not have a working carbon monoxide alarm](#)

Age Scotland has published data in their 'Taking the Temperature' report which shows 10% of over-50s in Scotland do not have a working carbon monoxide alarm in their home, with 25% not having interlinked fire and smoke alarms. Of those who did not have interlinked alarms installed in their homes at the time of the survey, 41% had no intention to have them installed within the next six months. Cost was cited as



the primary reason (54%) for this decision, with 27% unaware of what support was available to them for this purpose.

[Community Connecting service](#)

Age Scotland are highlighting their Community Connecting service which offers a helpline for people over 50 years old to get information on groups and activities in their local area. Aiming to reduce loneliness and social isolation, the helpline connects people to organisations that offer friendship, social activities, health and fitness groups and events.

Other Health and Social Care

[Annual returns](#)

The Care Inspectorate annual return is now available for services to complete between 9 January and 19 March 2023. The intelligence we gather helps us target our improvement activity and support within social care. It is a great source of baseline data across a variety of health and wellbeing indicators which we use to identify, drive and track improvement, for example infection control, nutrition and the recruitment and retention of staff. The data also helps us to identify trends and topics by both geographical area or service type, so that we can see where best to focus our improvement support work, for example, improvement workshops or new resources and guidance for care services across the sector. All services registered before 1 October 2022 must complete an annual return. If your service registered on or after 1 October 2022, you should still try to complete an annual return this year.

[Statement on NHS winter pressures](#)

The Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care Humza Yousuf MSP has provided an update to Scottish Parliament on the current pressures facing NHS Scotland, stressing taking a “whole systems approach” to tackling these issues and supporting the NHS and social care in the coming months. In his statement, Mr Yousuf confirmed additional actions to be rolled out across the health and social care system to alleviate these pressures, including:

- COSLA and the Scottish Government have identified around 300 additional interim spaces in care homes to help people be discharged from hospital, with funding of £8 million available to support health and social care partnerships to secure this provision
- Local leaders have been issued with advice with clear guidance on expectations around assessment and discharge practice, and care home oversight arrangements
- On longer term actions to address social care challenges, additional funding for the current financial year including £124 million to enhance care at home capacity, £200 million to increase the hourly rate of pay, £20 million to support interim care arrangements, £40 million to enhance multi-disciplinary teams, and £3.6 million to support the development of hospital at home



[Resilience and response meeting discusses winter pressures](#)

The First Minister Nicola Sturgeon has chaired a meeting of the Scottish Government resilience committee (SGoRR) to discuss the response to ongoing winter pressures on the health and social care system. Topics covered during the meeting include the latest situation with flu and COVID-19 infections was covered, along with the increased demands on acute sites and social care which have been experienced over the Christmas and New Year period.

[Final report on Tayside's Mental Health Services](#)

The Scottish Government has announced the publication of the final report from the Independent Oversight and Assurance Group on Tayside's Mental Health Services. The report contains the Oversight Group's final assessment of the progress that has been made in delivering the recommendations from the Trust and Respect Independent Inquiry, and points to the required next steps. It concludes that Tayside Executive Partners now have an opportunity to move beyond the recommendations made by the Trust and Respect Report, and highlights six areas for increased strategic focus for the partners and Scottish Government. These are:

1. Progress on single site provision; Strathmartine; and delayed discharges
2. Streamline and prioritise the change programme in support of Living Life Well
3. Making integration work
4. Engaging the workforce
5. Engaging with patients, families, partners and communities
6. Continued focus on patient safety

[Social workers association summarises work in 2022](#)

The Scottish Association of Social Workers has published a summary of its work in 2022. Their work includes the secretariat of the cross-party group on social work, holding an annual Mental Health Officer Conference, recognising World Social Work Day on 15 March 2022, facilitating the social work policy panel to give frontline social workers the chance to share their views with Scottish Government officials about how the profession could be improved, and publishing a report into workload pressures 'Setting the Bar'.

[NHS Scotland – blueprint for governance](#)

The Scottish Government has published the second edition of its blueprint for good governance guidance for NHS Scotland. It includes definitions of 'good governance', 'active governance' and 'collaborative governance', and places further emphasis on support mechanisms and continuous improvement to support best practice.



[Webinar on social work and policing in Shetland and Western Isles \(1 February 2023\)](#)

The Institute for Research and Innovation in Social Services (Iriss) will host a webinar on 1 February 2023 to share experiences of social work and policing in Shetland and Western Isles from two criminal justice social workers and a criminologist. This webinar is of relevance to practitioners with an interest in what it means to work in hyper-remote and rural settings.

[Scottish Social Care Nurses Network conference \(7 March 2023\)](#)

Scottish Care and the Scottish Social Care Nurses Network, in partnership with the Queen's Nursing Institute Scotland (QNIS), will host the Scottish Social Care Nurses Conference on Tuesday 7 March 2023 in Glasgow. This is open to any nurses working in social care or supporting social care.

Other

[Interim report on Domestic Abuse \(Scotland\) Act 2018](#)

The Scottish Government has published an interim report providing information to fulfil the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 reporting requirement. The report includes statistical information relating to progress and outcomes of domestic abuse cases in court and information about the experiences of victims/witnesses. Alongside this, a [report](#) on victims' and witnesses' experiences of court has also been published, with an in-depth [qualitative study](#). Emerging findings of [male victims' experiences](#) of the criminal justice has also been released, in addition to a [leaflet](#) co-designed by children and young people and adult survivors.

Workforce

[Funded places for the Scottish Improvement Leader programme](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has announced it will provide additional funded places on the Scottish Improvement Leader Programme in collaboration with NHS Education for Scotland. Applications will be accepted from Wednesday 18 January 2023 and close at 10am on Friday 3 March 2023.

[SPSO launch new online training course on complaint handling](#)

The Scottish Public Services Ombudsman has launched a new online training course on complaints handling and investigation. There are two different free courses. 'Good Complaints Handling' – a self-guided online course aimed at staff handling complaints at stage 1 of the Model Complaints Handling Procedure (MCHP) or anyone involved in complaint handling looking to develop their knowledge.

'Complaints Investigation Skills' – a trainer led course aimed at staff who investigate complaints at stage 2 of the Model Complaints Handling Procedure.



[Guide for social service employers recruiting Ukrainian nationals](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has published a new online guide for employers who want more information about recruiting Ukrainian nationals. The guide contains lots of general information that employers need to know, as well as links to more detailed sources of advice and guidance.

[Annual report published by SSSC](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has published its Annual Report for 2021-22. Showcasing their achievements over the year, highlights include:

- 6,275 SSSC Open and Health and Social Care Standards badges awarded and 17,042 active users of the MyLearning app
- 3,428 fitness to practise concerns received and closed or resolved 3,815 concerns
- Working with colleagues in public health and within the social service sector to make sure that the development of national infection prevention and control (IPC) guidance was person-centred, relevant and meaningful for staff working in social care settings
- Inspiring Care Stories campaign recognised as a finalist in the Chartered Institute of Public Relations Pride Awards 2021, in the categories for 'Best Covid Response' and 'Best Public Sector Campaign'

[Hiring toolkit for care providers \(England\)](#)

The UK Government has launched the Better Hiring Toolkit for social care providers to make informed, safer recruitment decisions by providing simplified guidance to support employers with both obtaining and providing effective references and conduct information. The toolkit aims to raise standards in the care sector, provide a "one-stop shop" for industry best practice and encourage an increase in sharing information including Barring referrals.

**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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