



Adult and Health

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Covid-19 - General

[PPE advice for unpaid carers](#)

The UK Government's Department of Health and Social Care has published guidance on personal protective equipment (PPE) for unpaid carers in the community. The guidance shows which PPE to wear depending on how you are caring for someone, and how to use your PPE safely to help protect yourself and the people you care for.

[Autumn Covid-19 vaccine booster advised](#)

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) has advised that plans should be made for those at higher risk of severe COVID-19 to be offered a booster vaccination this autumn.



Alcohol and Drugs

[Public attitudes on alcohol and tobacco use and weight](#)

The Scottish Government has published a report on the findings from the 2021/22 Scottish Social Attitudes Survey module on public attitudes about where responsibility lies with respect to those with harmful alcohol use, high tobacco use and those living with overweight or obesity. Of the three health issues, the public were most likely to agree that people who smoke heavily (44%) 'have only themselves to blame'.

Disabilities

[Committee seeking views on disabled peoples' experience of the labour market](#)

The Scottish Parliament's Economy and Fair Work Committee has an ongoing consultation, seeking the views of disabled people on their experience of the labour market and barriers they may face in finding their ideal job. The Committee wants to hear directly from people what policymakers can do to help make looking for a job a more equitable experience for everyone.

Mental Health

[Report on Individual Placement and Support](#)

The Scottish Government has published a report including findings and recommendations of an independent review of Individual Placement and Support (IPS) in Scotland commissioned by Scottish Government and produced by Social Finance. The review explored how effectively Individual Placement and Support (IPS) is being delivered in Scotland today through Fair Start Scotland (FSS) and what might need to change to improve delivery. The [Scottish Government's response](#) has also been published.

Older People

[Campaign to appoint more Older People's Champions](#)

Age Scotland, working alongside the Scottish Older People's Assembly (SOPA) are campaigning to have every Scottish local authority appoint an older people's champion. There are currently 16 local authorities who have a Champion, who is tasked with ensuring that older people's voices are heard, raising awareness of issues affecting local older people and work to seek solutions on their behalf.

[Protecting people from scams](#)

Age UK is highlighting their work in protecting older people from scams, including campaigning for legislation that makes it compulsory for banks to reimburse victims of Authorised Push Payment (APP) fraud, and collaborating with UK Finance on a public awareness campaign offering advice to help older people protect themselves from preventable financial fraud.



Other Health and Social Care

[Triennial review of initial case reviews and significant case reviews for adults](#)

The Care Inspectorate has published a triennial review of initial case reviews and significant case reviews for adults for 2019 – 2022. Our report highlights the following key messages:

- Neglect and self-neglect were the most prominent categories of harm identified. While there was evidence some partnerships were responding to these issues, more needed to be done nationally.
- The circumstances of those affected by mental health and substance misuse were most frequently considered in reviews. Health and social care partnerships should carefully consider this to inform future trauma informed improvement activity.
- Reviews did not routinely share information with, or include the views from, people with lived experience or their families/unpaid carers.
- Poorly planned hospital discharges were a significant feature in some reviews. This requires consideration and improvement across health and social care.
- Learning potential was maximised when frontline staff were involved in review processes.

[Guidance for healthcare professionals responding to disclosures of sexual assault](#)

The Scottish Government has published guidance for healthcare professionals on the Sexual Assault Response Coordination Service (SARCS). The guidance summarises how to support individuals and the options available to them.

[Easy read paper on the current status of social work](#)

The Scottish Government has published an easy read paper describing the current status of social work in Scotland in relation to the National Care Service. The paper sets out key information about social care and related areas linked to the development of the National Care Service.

[Meeting to discuss the impact of winter and pressures on the NHS and social care](#)

The Scottish Government's resilience committee (SgoRR) met again to discuss the impact of winter on NHS and social care. The meeting notes that pressures on the system remain acute, despite a slight improvement in the most recent accident and emergency waiting time statistics. The meeting considered updates on rates of respiratory illness, levels of hospital capacity and actions to alleviate delayed discharge, including a nationwide re-assessment of hospital patients who are clinically safe to be discharged so they can be moved home or to a homely setting as soon as possible.



[Commissioning services differently](#)

The Institute for Research and Innovation in Social Services (Iriss) has published a summary of its December webinar on commissioning in social work and social care. The webinar discussed the progress of NHS Highland in commissioning services differently, more collaboratively, creatively and ethically, in a time of change.

[RPS publish paper on how pharmacies can tackle health inequalities](#)

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) has published a position paper which sets out what pharmacies can do to tackle health inequalities. The paper is designed to provide a reference source for pharmacy teams to use over time to continually improve services.

[NMC asks its council to approve changes to the education programme](#)

The Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) are asking its Council to approve changes to registration education programme standards that will give educators the flexibility to deliver courses at the cutting edge of nursing and midwifery education. Since leaving the European Union (EU) the NMC are no longer required to include some European regulations in their standards and are making changes to enable a broader range of students to join the register with the knowledge and skills to provide safe, effective and kind care for people.

Other

[Overview of procurement activity](#)

The Scottish Government has published an overview of public procurement activity in Scotland for 2020 to 2021, based on information contained in individual annual procurement reports prepared by public bodies and other relevant information.

[Budget scrutiny for 2023-24](#)

The Finance and Public Administration Committee has published a report on its Budget scrutiny for 2023-24, including sections on the economic and fiscal context, continuing pressures, taxation, spending priorities, and public service reform.

[Common themes in pre-budget scrutiny](#)

The Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe) has published a briefing of common themes which have emerged during committees' pre-Budget scrutiny. First looking at the committee scrutiny process and how it has changed, the blog then identifies the common themes across the pre-budget letters and reports produced by 12 committees in autumn 2022, and where these themes fit within the three principles of human rights budgeting.

[Human Rights Committee publish report on Bill of Rights \(England\)](#)

The Joint Committee of Human Rights have published the ninth report of session from 2022-2023 for the Bill of Rights. The report warns the government's proposals



to replace the Human Rights Act and change how human rights are protected in the UK would create large scale uncertainty and seriously damage people's ability to enforce their rights. It calls on the government to reconsider the majority of the Bill of Rights Bill, calling into question the wisdom of proceeding with the legislation at all. The Bill of Rights is set to replace the Human Rights Act 1998 (HRA).

Workforce

[Experiences of social care workers and enforcement of employment rights](#)

The Resolution Foundation has published a briefing note on the experience of social care workers, and the enforcement of employment rights in the sector. amongst other key findings, the focus groups with frontline care workers reportedly found that to workers the human element of the role is immensely satisfying, and workers view their work as high-skilled and high-responsibility.

[Funding for workforce training](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has announced 75 voluntary organisations will receive SSSC-administered grants totalling over £1 million to help social care workers gain qualifications. The funding from the Voluntary Sector Development Fund (VSDF) will support nearly 1,000 social care workers in care at home and housing support services to gain the qualifications they need to register with the SSSC.

[Campaign to boost the social care workforce](#)

The Scottish Government is highlighting the launch of a marketing campaign to support the recruitment of more adult social care workers to help address the high level of vacancies in the sector. The campaign – titled 'there is more to care than caring' – aims to raise awareness of the career opportunities available in adult social care and encourage people to apply.

**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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