

27 January - 2 February
2023



bulletin



Adult and Health



[Covid-19 - General](#)

[Alcohol and Drugs](#)

[Alzheimer's/Dementia](#)

[Care Homes/Care at Home](#)

[Justice](#)

[Mental Health](#)

[Disabilities](#)

[Older People](#)

[Workforce](#)

[Other Health & Social Care](#)

Covid-19 - General

[Covid-19 guidance updated by Public Health Scotland](#)

Public Health Scotland (PHS) has updated its Covid-19 guidance to merge guidance for prisons into social, community, residential care setting guidance. The updated guidance also outlines changes specific to social, community and residential care settings and changes specific to prison settings.

[Long Covid statistics published](#)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has published data on self-reported long covid symptoms and associated disability, using information from the UK Coronavirus (covid-19) Infection Survey for the period from Monday 2 January to Thursday 2 February. The data suggests 3% of the population are experiencing long covid symptoms, roughly two million people.



Alcohol and Drugs

[New report on the impact of MUP on the alcoholic drinks industry in Scotland](#)

Public Health Scotland (PHS) has published its second report of a study undertaken by researchers at Frontier Economics looking at the impact of minimum unit pricing (MUP) on the alcoholic drinks industry in Scotland. The report states the evidence gathered doesn't suggest that MUP has significantly impacted the performance of Scotland's alcoholic drinks industry. However, it states that MUP has led to consumer and retailer responses in terms of pricing and purchasing.

[NICE urges services to accurately record information on people's drinking habits](#)

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) is calling on professionals to correctly gather information on people's alcohol drinking habits to ensure those that need help are not missed and to avoid repeatedly asking people about their alcohol use. NICE is calling on primary care services, secondary care services, social care services, criminal justice services, and community and voluntary services to ensure that they have the systems in place to use validated alcohol questionnaires when asking people about their alcohol use.

Alzheimer's/Dementia

[New grants programme announced to support those affected by dementia](#)

Age Scotland and About Dementia have announced a new funding opportunity for those affected by dementia in Scotland. The peer-to-peer grants programme is open to people living with dementia and current or former unpaid carers. A total of £260,000 is available with grants between £500 and £10,000 open for applications. The grants look to empower people with dementia and unpaid carers to create their own peer support activities and projects.

[£50,000 awarded to organisations to support those affected by dementia](#)

Age Scotland has announced that five organisations have been awarded funding to develop meeting centres for people affected by dementia in Scotland. The Heart of Newhaven (Edinburgh), Eric Liddell Community (Edinburgh), Deepness (Isle of Lewis), Dementia Friendly Aberfeldy (Aberfeldy) and Weekday Wow Factor (Glasgow) have all received £10,000 each to open a meeting centre in their community. The funding has been allocated through the Meeting Centres Seedcorn Fund, which is part of a partnership between the Scottish Government and Age Scotland's About Dementia project.



Care Homes/Care at Home

[The Care Inspectorate is hosting a training webinar on malnutrition for care at home staff](#)

Our health and social care improvement team is hosting a webinar for care at home staff, with [Eat Well Age Well](#), to raise awareness of the new national malnutrition training resource. The resource is designed to support care at home staff to identify if someone is at risk of becoming under-nourished, and how to support older people who may be struggling to eat and drink well at home. The training is available online and consists of eight videos and a workbook which cover topics such as what can cause malnutrition, how to spot signs and symptoms and simple tips to boost appetite. It can be completed by an individual care worker or used by a service provider as induction or ongoing training for a group of staff. The webinar will cover the malnutrition toolkit, the training videos, and how to support staff to be confident in identifying malnutrition. The webinar will take place 14 February from 14:00 to 15:30.

Justice

[Justice Social Work Statistics in Scotland 2021-22 published](#)

The Scottish Government has published national-level information on justice social work activity in Scotland for the period covering 2021-22. The publication includes information on justice social work services, social work orders, and the characteristics of the individuals involved. It highlights that the Covid-19 pandemic had an impact on many areas of justice social work during 2020-21 and 2021-22 which resulted in lower volumes of cases going through courts. It is also noted that the number of social work orders issued in 2021-22 was 12,600, an increase of 48% compared to 2020-21.

[Easy read summary from consultation on improving victims' experience of the justice system](#)

An easy read summary of the main findings from the consultation on improving victims' experiences of the justice system has been published by the Scottish Government. The consultation found there was support for having a Victims' Commissioner and that some respondents said that it is important for Victim's Commissioner to be accessible for all victims. It also found that there was support for new laws and changes to make the justice system trauma informed and person centred.

[National baseline review of healthcare provisions within police custody centres](#)

Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS) has published a report on the national baseline review of healthcare provision within police custody centres in Scotland. The findings from the review suggest a wide variation across Scotland in access to healthcare for people in police custody. The report includes examples of good practice and outlines a number of recommendations relating to the planning and delivery of healthcare.



Mental Health

[Charity calls on governments to support people during cost-of-living crisis](#)

The Mental Health Foundation (MHF) has called on the UK and devolved governments to take further action to support people struggling from the cost-of-living crisis. The MHF has published a policy briefing which includes a number of policy recommendations to prevent and limit the severity of mental health problems in the context of the cost-of-living crisis. Recommendations include providing funding for community organisations and publishing mental health advice through mental health and 'cost-of-living' channels.

Disabilities

[Call for views on the mobility component of the Adult Disability Payment](#)

The Scottish Government is consulting on the mobility component of the Adult Disability Payment (ADP). The ADP replaces Personal Independence Payment (PIP) in Scotland and is now delivered by Social Security Scotland. The consultation is seeking views on the eligibility criteria of the mobility component of ADP and will inform the independent review of ADP which will commence later this year. The consultation will close 25 April 2023.

Workforce

[SSSC highlights £1 million funding to support social care workers gain qualifications](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has highlighted that voluntary organisations across Scotland will benefit from funding of more than £1 million to help social care workers gain qualifications. The funding, from the Voluntary Sector Development Fund (VSDF), will support almost 1,000 social care workers in care at home and housing support services to get the qualifications the need to the register with the SSSC.

[Survey on leadership development in health, social care and social work workforce](#)

The Scottish Government has commissioned economic development consultants Ekosgen to examine leadership development in the health, social care and social work workforces. The aim is to ensure staff have access to the support they need to develop the leadership skills and knowledge they need. Ekosgen is keen to hear directly from the workforce, to fully understand their needs, the leadership development they may have already accessed and challenges they may face in participating in leadership development opportunities. The closing date for the online survey is 17 February.



Other Health and Social Care

[New research highlights barriers faced by those challenging social care decisions](#)

New research by the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) has highlighted that some adults receiving social care in Scotland are unsure of how to challenge decisions about their care. The research findings revealed negative experiences of the system by social care users, carers, personal assistants, and advocates. The findings also suggest that none of the local authorities that took part in the research made accessible information on the right to challenge social care decisions available publicly and identifies potential improvements to the current processes of challenging decisions.

[Call for views on a Self-Directed Support Implementation Plan](#)

The Scottish Association of Social Work (SASW) has invited its members to share their views on a new Self-Directed Support (SDS) implementation plan. The SASW, alongside Social Work Scotland, representatives from Scottish Government, COSLA, Self-Directed Support Scotland, and other stakeholders are part of the working group facilitating the work to co-develop the SDS Improvement Plan 2023-2027. The consultation document doesn't include the entire Plan but focuses on the proposed actions to improve the delivery of SDS. The deadline for feedback is 9 February 2023.

[Discussion paper on public health approach to prevention published by PHS](#)

Public Health Scotland (PHS) has published a paper outlining a public health framework for prevention and the key contribution NHS Scotland makes to preventing poor health outcomes. The paper highlights low and falling life expectancy, and widening health inequalities as the two challenges facing Scotland's health, and notes that a lack of shared language on the investment needed to address these challenges is preventing investment in effective preventative actions within NHS Scotland.

[Consultation launched on regulation of independent health care amendments](#)

The Scottish Government has launched a consultation on proposed changes to the way independent health care in Scotland is regulated. The consultation presents three proposed changes including enabling Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS) to regulate independent health care services provided by pharmacists and pharmacy technicians which are not provided under the terms of an NHS contract or from non-General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) registered premises, enabling HIS to regulate independent medical agencies providing health care services which consist of or include the provision of services by a medical practitioner, dental practitioner, registered nurse, registered midwife, dental care professional, pharmacist, or pharmacy technician, and enabling HIS to cancel the registration of any independent health care service where there has been a failure to pay continuation fees. The closing date for the consultation is 26 April 2023.



[ALLIANCE highlights research calling for increased investment in adult social care](#)

The ALLIANCE has highlighted research briefing by the Scottish Women's Budget Group (SWBG) calling for increased investment in adult social care in Scotland. SWBG have set out two scenarios for greater investment in Scotland's adult social care support services and provide a new model for investment.

[First Women's Health Champion for Scotland announced](#)

The Scottish Government has announced the appointment of Professor Anna Glasier OBE as the first Women's Health Champion for Scotland. She will work with partners in the NHS and across the public and third sectors to take forward actions in the Women's Health Plan. The first [Women's Health Plan progress report](#) has also been published, setting out the progress made against the Plan's short term actions, and providing an update on the medium term actions.

[Fourth meeting of resilience committee on health pressures](#)

At the fourth meeting of the Scottish Government Resilience Room (SGoRR), First Minister Nicola Sturgeon was joined by the Deputy First Minister, the Health Secretary and other cabinet ministers, along with the Chief Medical Officer and senior representatives from NHS boards, COSLA, Integration Joint Boards and the Scottish Ambulance Service to discuss pressures on healthcare services. The First Minister has noted that A&E waiting times are reducing but that "significant challenges remain".

[RCN invites nursing students in Scotland to share their views on student financial support](#)

The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) has asked nursing students in Scotland for their views in student financial support. The online survey is open to all nursing students and will be close 15 February 2023.

**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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