

10 – 16 February 2023



bulletin



Adult and Health

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Covid-19 - General

[Weekly flu and Covid-19 surveillance report published](#)

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has published its weekly national flu and Covid-19 surveillance report. The report provides surveillance data up to end of week 5 (9 February), noting that in week 5 swab positivity for flu decreased to 2.7% compared to 3.3% in week 4.

[Updated Covid-19 guidance for Health Protection Teams](#)

Public Health Scotland (PHS) has updated its Covid-19 guidance for healthcare protection teams (HPTs). The updated guidance includes sections on non-healthcare settings, workplace and community settings risk assessment, and workplace and community settings management.



Long Covid

[Covid- 19 Recovery Committee publishes responses on long Covid services](#)

The Covid-19 Recovery Committee has published responses from the [Thistle Foundation](#) and [NHS National Services Scotland](#) on long Covid services. In its letter, the Thistle Foundation notes that it has received £250,000 funding from Scottish Government to set up a national development programme which aims to reshape rehabilitation services for people living with long-term health conditions including the long-term impacts of Covid-19. NHS National Services Scotland have provided a summary of the achievements of the Scottish Long Covid National Strategic Network (NSN) which was developed to provide national support to building the capacity, capability and co-ordination of health and social care services for people with long term effects of Covid-19.

Alcohol and Drugs

[College shows support for Scottish Government proposals on alcohol marketing](#)

The Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh (RCPE) has highlighted its support for the proposals set out in the Scottish Government's consultation on alcohol marketing. The RCPE believes that the proposals set out in the consultation provide an opportunity to protect children from alcohol marketing and support those who are in recovery from alcohol problems. The RCPE is also urging clinicians, and others who may be concerned with the negative impact of alcohol on the population health, to respond to the consultation which will close on Thursday 9 March.

[£421 million announced to improve drug and alcohol treatment \(England\)](#)

The Department of Health and Social Care has announced that local authorities in England will receive £421 million in funding to improve drug and alcohol addiction treatment and recovery. The extra funding will allow local authorities to recruit more staff to work with people with drug and alcohol problems, support more prison leavers into treatment and recovery services, and invest in enhancing the quality of treatment they provide.

Alzheimer's/Dementia

[All-Party Parliamentary Group on Dementia launch inquiry into dementia diagnosis \(England\)](#)

The Alzheimer's Society has highlighted the launch of a new inquiry into barriers to dementia diagnosis. The All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Dementia is now seeking the views of people living with dementia or carers with significant involvement in helping someone access a diagnosis. The APPG would also like to hear from academics, professionals working in the NHS, social care, public health, for an NHS local authority or for a VCSE. The call for views will close on 24 February 2023.



Care Homes/Care at Home

[Care providers call on Scottish Government to limit agency fees for temporary staff](#)

Care providers have called on the Scottish Government to limit the fees charged by employment agencies for providing temporary staff at short notice to care homes. Alyson Vale, Business and Operations Director across the homes in Fife run by Abbotsford Care, said “the National Care Home Contract does not meet the additional costs of covering vacancies. We have seen a rise in agency costs as well as the demand of agency hours increased to meet the pressures on the sector”.

[The Care Inspectorate’s work on Anne’s Law Project](#)

The Care Inspectorate is working on the Anne’s Law Project, which aims not only to uphold visiting rights, but to enhance and promote meaningful social connection for people who live in adult and older people’s care homes. As part of our role, we will be producing guidance and training for the care home sector. We want to engage with people who live in care homes, their families and friends, and staff, to hear a range of voices about what social connection means to people and why it is important. This will inform the guidance and other materials we produce. As part of this, we are planning to visit a range of care homes to speak with people directly. If you are happy for us to visit your service, please email us at annes.law@careinspectorate.gov.scot

[New article highlights benefits of employing pharmacists to support care homes](#)

The British Medical Journal (BMJ) has published an article on the findings of its Care Homes Independent Pharmacist Prescriber Study (CHIPPS). The BMJ note that the study confirmed that employing pharmacists to support care homes improves the quality of prescribing within care homes, and that this in turn could provide future health benefits.

[ALLIANCE highlights campaign to end non-residential care charges in Scotland](#)

The ALLIANCE has highlighted the launch of a new petition by the Assembly which aims to speed up the process of ending care charges in Scotland. The campaign is calling on the Scottish Government to cancel all non-residential social care charges in Scotland from September 2023.

Workforce

[Guidance on the flexible workforce development fund for Scottish employers](#)

The Scottish Social Security Council (SSSC) has published new guidance for social services employers in Scotland on the flexible workforce development fund (FWDF) 2022-23. The FWDF supports Scottish employers to provide new learning opportunities for their existing workforce. The SSSC article provides guidance around the £10 million fund provided for the 2022-2023 academic year and includes guidance for the following:



- Guidance for small to medium sized organisations (SMEs), with less than 250 employees, for learning delivered by colleges or The Open University.
- Guidance for employers who pay the UK Government Apprenticeship Levy, for learning delivered by colleges or independent training providers.

[New report highlights increase in nurses leaving the NMC register](#)

A new report published by the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) has highlighted that Scotland saw a significantly higher increase in nurses leaving the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) register. The report notes that in Scotland, there was a 13% increase in the number of nurses who left the NMC register in the 12 months up to September 2022. The RCN is urging the Scottish Government to prioritise action to ensure nursing is viewed as an attractive career, and is calling for the development of a Nursing Retention Strategy which outlines actions to tackle the exodus of registered nursing staff from the profession.

[NMC announces changes to temporary register](#)

The Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) has announced that it is making changes to its Covid emergency temporary register. The NMC has noted that it will write to everyone on the temporary register to explain the changes and what that means for them. The changes are expected to be implemented from 21 March 2023.

[New NMC policy for displaced people applying to join the register](#)

The Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) has published a new policy to support displaced people to join the register. The new policy covers forcibly displaced people and outlines how the NMC will work with eligible applicants to take into account alternative evidence that shows how they meet NMC standards when applying to join the register. The NMC has noted that it will consider alternative evidence in exceptional circumstances and when it is safe to do so, and it will make decisions on a case-by-case basis.

Other Health and Social Care

[Nicola Sturgeon announced her intention to resign as Scotland's First Minister](#)

Nicola Sturgeon has announced she will be stepping down as Scotland's First Minister due to personal reasons. Ms Sturgeon will remain in post until a successor has been appointed.

[Committee publishes report on the National Care Service \(Scotland\) Bill](#)

The Scottish Parliament's Criminal Justice Committee has published a report on its consideration of the National Care Service (Scotland) Bill. The Criminal Justice Committee is one of four secondary committees appointed to consider various parts of the Bill relevant to their own remit and report any conclusions and recommendations to the lead committee. In its report, the Criminal Justice Committee noted the frustration and concern felt by non-government witnesses around the lack of detail in the Bill, and that this prevented witnesses from making an



assessment of the possible impacts of the NCS on criminal justice social work services.

[A public health approach to ending violence against women and girls](#)

Public Health Scotland (PHS) has published a paper describing a public health approach to ending violence against women and girls (VAWG). The paper highlights the actions and conditions needed to prevent VAWG including embedding a public health approach across all systems. PHS commits to raising awareness and informing a public health approach to VAWG in Scotland, advocating for local and national policy, collective actions and leadership to prioritise prevention, working collaboratively with partners to implement a public health approach, and working with partners to enable new data collections and surveillance.

[Urgent case review on the management of a transgender prisoner](#)

The Scottish Government has published a case review into the management of a transgender person in custody. The findings from the urgent case review indicate that women in the care of the prison were not at risk of harm and confirmed that the person didn't come into contact with any other prisoners during their time at HMP&YOI Cornton Vale. The review also makes key recommendations into the management of transgender individuals including the creation of a shared justice process for admitting transgender people to prisons in Scotland.

[STV reports £150m has been spent on social care overtime in the last five years](#)

STV has reported that local authorities in Scotland have spent over £150 million on social care overtime in the last five years. The article notes "data obtained through freedom of information (FOI) legislation revealed that 30 of Scotland's 32 local authorities have had to fork out because of significant staff shortages."

**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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