

17 – 23 February 2023



bulletin



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Covid-19 – General

[Joint commitments made by Scottish and UK Covid-19 inquiries](#)

A Memorandum of Understanding has been agreed by the chairs of the Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry and UK Covid-19 Inquiry, to minimise duplication of investigation, evidence gathering and reporting. The MoU includes commitments to provide clear information to the public about how each Inquiry will carry out its investigations in Scotland, minimise duplication of work through information sharing and maximise value for money.

Adult Support and Protection

[Adult Support and Protection Day](#)

Monday 20 February marked Adult Support and Protection Day. The Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance has highlighted the number of people referred to Adult Support and Protection has risen by more than 200 a week in the last year. There were around 940 Adult Support and Protection referrals per week, on average between December 2021 and December 2022, compared to an average of around 700 the year before. The average increased to around 980 per week between June and December 2022.

Alzheimer's/Dementia

[Time for You Fund offers carers short breaks](#)

Alzheimer Scotland has opened applications for grants of £200 to support unpaid carers of people with dementia living in Scotland. The Time for You Carers Fund offers carers the chance to take a short break from their caring role to look after their own needs too.

Care Homes/Care at Home

[Overview of safe staffing legislation](#)

The Scottish Government has published an overview of the Health and Care (Staffing) (Scotland) Act 2019 for those affected. The overview informs health professionals and care service providers of their responsibilities to signpost to support available. The provisions in the Act will come into force in April 2024. It notes the Act places duties on the Care Inspectorate and that the Safe Staffing Programme is working with care service providers to help them prepare for implementation, and is also currently researching the use of staffing methods and tools in care homes for older people.

Justice

[Joint review of diversion from prosecution](#)

The Scottish Government has published a joint review of diversion from prosecution carried out by HM Inspectorate of Prosecution in Scotland, HM Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland, HM Inspectorate of Prisons for Scotland and the Care Inspectorate. The review makes 34 recommendations and findings highlight several ways in which diversion could be increased, including ensuring processes for managing diversion across agencies are as efficient as possible, and to increase the take-up of diversion by accused persons.

Human Rights

[Report on human rights, health and social care](#)

The ALLIANCE has commissioned a new report on human rights in health and social care, calling for the incoming First Minister to prioritise the incorporation of human rights legislation into Scots law. The report also warns that the social care sector is “not in a position of strength” ahead of the proposed introduction of a National Care Service.



Mental Health

[Summary of mental health and wellbeing consultation analysis](#)

The Scottish Government has published an executive summary of the consultation analysis which will be used to inform the new Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy, expected in spring 2023.

[Insight briefing on suicide thoughts in older people](#)

Iriss has published an Insight on suicide thoughts and behaviour in later life. The briefing is targeted at practitioners who work with older people and may want to know more about how to address suicidal thought and behaviour in this population, as well as specialist suicide prevention providers who are interested in tailoring their existing services for people in later life.

Older People

[Global call for action on long term care](#)

The Global Ageing Network, whose membership includes Scottish Care, has published a report titled [Call to Governments: Ageing and Long-Term Care](#). The report issues a warning about the impact of issues arising from ageing populations in countries around the world, combined with declining numbers of carers and “insufficient” government support for services for older adults need. Dr Donald Macaskill, Chief Executive of Scottish Care said the international report was of significance to Scotland as it showed that many of the challenges in this country are global in nature.

Other Health and Social Care

[Health and social care data strategy](#)

The first data strategy for health and social care has been published by the Scottish Government. The document sets out plans to improve how patients access their data and how care is delivered through digital systems. An executive summary of the strategy has also been published which summarises the three key ambitions of the strategy in empowering people to access and manage their data, enabling health and social care staff to gather and share data securely, and ensuring data is safely accessible for planning and research. The strategy is a commitment of the wider Care in the Digital Age strategy, updated in October 2021 and due for further update in May 2023.

[Detailed update on work of NCS co-design process](#)

The ALLIANCE has highlighted further details on the co-design process behind the National Care Service (Scotland) Bill, as shared by the Scottish Government. Key updates include:

- The next round of co-design activity was planned to begin mid-January, with design investigations being planned in line with each of the five initial design themes.
- The Scottish Government policy and design teams have been undertaking a significant piece of desk research to help build evidence on the second theme, information sharing to improve care support.
- There is a team in the process of completing research of literature reviews to look at what is known about the differences in social care support at a regional level.

[Consultation summary on safeguarding data sharing](#)

A summary of responses to the Scottish Government consultation on safeguarding data sharing has been published. The consultation, which opened in March 2022, sought views to inform a formalised approach for Social Security Scotland to align its process with other Government departments and report concerns of potential harm to local authorities.

[Research participants required for long term conditions study](#)

The ALLIANCE has highlighted research being undertaken by the University of Glasgow on how people with multiple long-term conditions manage their health. People with multiple chronic conditions, or those who care for people with multiple conditions, are invited to take part in the research study which will last two months.

[Budget for 2023-24 passed](#)

The Scottish Parliament passed the Budget (Scotland) (No.2) Bill earlier this week. The SNP and Greens voted for the Bill while the Conservatives, Labour and Liberal Democrats voted against. In his statement, John Swinney [confirmed](#) £223 million would be provided to local authorities to support pay awards to staff as part of the 2023-24 Budget.

[Technology good practice guide](#)

The Care Inspectorate has published a technology good practice guide to highlight good practice that supports outcomes, help those delivering care to achieve positive experiences of digital technology to support care, and support providers to better understand and offer good quality digital engagement. We are also hosting a webinar for all services on Tuesday 21 March 2023 from 14:00-15:30 via Microsoft Teams to formally launch the guidance and discuss how it can be used to support good practice. Participants will hear from three services about how they use technology to enhance people's wellbeing. The SSSC will also share the digital skills resources they have for care staff. There will be opportunities to ask questions and interact with the speakers throughout the session. You can register for this webinar [here](#).



[Pay offer to NHS staff](#)

The Scottish Government has announced that healthcare staff in Scotland have been offered an average 6.5 per cent increase in pay for 2023-24. NHS Agenda for Change staff, which includes nurses, midwives, paramedics and AHPs, have been offered the pay increase alongside a commitment to deliver a “progressive package” of terms and conditions. The offer also includes the commitment to modernising Agenda for Change, to support workforce recruitment, sustainability and retention.

[Audit report on the NHS in Scotland](#)

Audit Scotland has published a report on the operation of the NHS in Scotland in 2022. The report says greater transparency is required on how long it will take the NHS to recover from the impact of the pandemic and reform services. It finds current plans lack robust modelling to understand demand and capacity, with the backlog of cases having increased in the last 18 months. It says it is too early to gauge the success of NHS reform efforts, but urgent financial pressures remain.

[Nursing and Midwifery Taskforce announced](#)

Cabinet Secretary for Health, Humza Yousaf, will chair a new expert group, set up to improve working conditions for nurses and support plans to increase the workforce. The Nursing and Midwifery Taskforce will include recognised nursing and midwifery workforce experts, alongside academia, NHS and Scottish Government representatives. The Royal College of Nursing and the Royal College of Midwives will also be represented.

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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