



Adult  
and  
Health



[Covid-19 - General](#)

[Justice](#)

[Other Health & Social Care](#)

### **Covid-19 - General**

#### [Spring booster advice published](#)

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) has published its latest advice for the 2023 Covid-19 booster programme. The committee has advised that a spring booster dose should be offered to:

- adults aged 75 years and over
- residents in a care home for older adults
- individuals aged 5 years and over who are immunosuppressed

#### [Study highlights “resilience” during pandemic](#)

A review of 137 studies by the BMJ suggests the majority of people were resilient in the face of the pandemic, with changes in general mental health “minimal to small”. Depression became a little worse overall among women, older people, university students and those belonging to sexual or gender minorities. Other studies in the review found women felt the impact of the pandemic more. The study recognised the ongoing impact of the pandemic and said some people were now experiencing mental health difficulties for the first time.



## Justice

### [Reforming the criminal law to address misogyny](#)

Plans to make misogynistic harassment a criminal offence have been announced by the Scottish Government. A consultation has been launched on draft reforms, which would create five new laws including offences of misogynistic behaviour and harassment, statutory aggravation concerning misogyny, offence of threatening or abusive communications to women or girls that reference rape and other violence, and an offence of stirring up hatred against women and girls.

## Other Health and Social Care

### [National Care Service \(Scotland\) Bill timetable update](#)

The Scottish Parliament has voted to extend the timetable for the National Care Service (Scotland) Bill. Stage 1 of the Bill will now be completed by 30 June 2023. This means the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee will publish its findings on the Bill and the Scottish Parliament will debate the general principles of the Bill before the Parliament adjourns for summer recess. Other updates on the Bill include:

- UNISON Scotland has published a [briefing](#) on Stage 1 parliamentary conclusions made by six other committees who have published their reports.
- Anne-Marie Monaghan, adult services lead at the Scottish Association of Social Workers, [published a blog](#) on the proposed National Social Work Agency.

### [Event on innovation in social work and social care](#)

Iriss will hold an event on getting innovation into practice on 16 May in Stirling. The event will bring people from across the sector together to about how social work and social care support can work for people. Speakers at the event include Joanna MacDonald, Deputy Chief Social Work Adviser, Scottish Government, and Derek Feeley, Chair of the Independent Review of Adult Social Care.

### [Social isolation fund launched](#)

The Scottish Government has launched the Social Isolation and Loneliness Fund. The fund will support community groups who bring people and communities together to tackle isolation and will distribute £3.8 million to groups and organisations until July 2026.

### [Care Inspectorate Wales to begin silent ratings pilot](#)

Care Inspectorate Wales has provided an update on their ratings for care homes and domiciliary support, confirming a silent ratings pilot will begin in June 2023. The Inspectorate will start providing silent ratings at all inspections of care homes and domiciliary support services, as part of a seven-month pilot phase. These will not be published. Findings from their evaluation of the pilot will be published at the end of January 2024.

**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.

It should also be noted that the Care Inspectorate has no liability in respect of the content of external websites which may be signposted on this site.