

  
Adult  
and  
Health[Covid-19 - General](#)[Alcohol and Drugs](#)[Alzheimer's/Dementia](#)[Care Homes/Care at Home](#)[Equalities](#)[Infection Prevention and Control](#)[Mental Health](#)[Other Health & Social Care](#)**Covid-19 - General**[Updated guidance for adults with incapacity arrangements](#)

The Scottish Government has updated its Covid-19 guidance for adults with incapacity arrangements to advise that the 'stop the clock' guardianship provision is the only relevant emergency provision from the Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020 that remains. The guidance has been reviewed and will be available until 2025.

[Monitoring reports of the effectiveness of Covid-19 vaccines](#)

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has published a collection of monitoring reports on the impact Covid-19 vaccines have had on symptomatic disease, hospitalisation, death, and infection.



## **Alcohol and Drugs**

### [Literature review on Whole Family Approaches to family support](#)

A review of the evidence on Whole Family Approaches to family support in the context of substance use has found that how families are defined and understood is central to the successful implementation of interventions, and that driving factors such as trauma and poverty need to be considered when supporting individuals and families affected by substance use. The literature review notes that involving all members of families affected by substance use in the design and delivery of interventions is linked to positive outcomes. The review also suggests that inter-agency collaboration is needed when adopting a Whole Family Approach.

### [Young people invited to share views on Minimum Unit Pricing of alcohol](#)

The ALLIANCE has highlighted the Scottish Government's call for young people aged between 18-24 to take part in a focus group discussion on the impact of Minimum Unit Pricing of alcohol (MUP). The focus group is part of a series of roundtable events to inform the final report on MUP which is due in Parliament later this year. The proposed date for the focus group is 31 July 2023 and those interested in taking part should express their interest by 28 July. The event will be hosted through MS Teams.

## **Alzheimer's/Dementia**

### [£170,000 fund launched for grassroots dementia projects](#)

About Dementia has launched the Encouraging and Supporting Grassroots Activity (ESGA) 2023 fund for grassroots dementia projects. £170,000 in funding is available for groups or individuals who want to set up a new project or for those already running activities for people affected by dementia. The fund looks to encourage community-led, grassroots support for those living with dementia, unpaid carers and family members. The closing date for applications is 1 September 2023.

## **Care Homes/Care at Home**

### [PHS data on demand for care at home services](#)

Public Health Scotland (PHS) has published information on the demand for care at home services. The publication includes the number of people waiting for an assessment for social care services, the number of people waiting for a package of care at home and the number of hours of care that are being waited for. The latest information was published on 25 July and shows that as of 3 July 2023 over 6,200 people are estimated to be waiting on a social care assessment to enable them to live independently at home or in the community.



## Equalities

### [New report on inequalities published by Engender](#)

The ALLIANCE has highlighted the publication of Engender's 2023 Sex and Power report. The report looks at a range of areas across public life and notes that inequality is strong in the health and social care system. It suggests that 52% of health boards are led by male chief executives, even though men only make up 23% of the overall NHS Scotland workforce.

### [Equality and Human Rights Commission annual report](#)

The Equality and Human Rights Commission has published its annual report and accounts for 2022-23. The report notes the Commission's work in the past year including the launch of the Preventing Sexual Harassment at Work Toolkit, encouraging greater focus on closing the gender pay gap through the development of the Action Plan Toolkit, and the publication of a research report on challenging decisions about adult social care in Scotland.

## Infection Prevention and Control

### [New app launched for infection prevention and control guidance](#)

Health and social care staff can now access the latest infection prevention and control (IPC) guidance through a new mobile app. The [preventing infection in social care settings app](#) was developed specifically for the social care workforce and enables staff to access national guidance through a mobile device and on the web. A number of webinars will be delivered in August and September for those who want to know more about the app and how to use it.

## Mental Health

### [Mental health in Scotland's prisons closure report](#)

The Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland has published a closure report on mental health in Scotland's prison. The report follows the Commission's earlier report on how mental health services were working in prisons which included a set of recommendations for change. The closure report suggests that there is considerable variation across the prison estate in meeting the Commission's recommendations, and that little had changed in relation to the outcomes for prisoners' mental health.

### [New approach to deliver mental health support and free up police time \(England\)](#)

The UK Government, NHS England and the police have agreed on a new approach to provide support by the most appropriate agency to those experiencing a mental health crisis in England. The National Partnership Agreement: Right Care, Right Person (RCRP) sets out a national commitment to work to end the inappropriate involvement of police in responding to incidents involving people with mental health needs.



## Other Health and Social Care

### [Projects tackling social isolation and loneliness receive share of a new fund](#)

53 projects tackling social isolation and loneliness throughout Scotland have received a share of the Social Isolation and Loneliness Fund. The fund will deliver £3.2 million to community projects and organisations that have a particular focus on meeting the needs of people most at risk of social isolation and loneliness including young people, disabled people, those with a mental health condition, older people and people living in areas of deprivation or on a low income.

### [HIS resources to support staff prepare for new duties under the Staffing Act](#)

Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS) is providing a range of support to help health and care professionals prepare for the new duties that will come into effect under the Health and Care (Staffing) (Scotland) Act 2019. HIS is providing learning resources through the Turas platform and a suite of staffing level tools to help NHS Scotland services plan the number of staff they need.

### [Evidence review of methods used to measure hidden homelessness](#)

The Scottish Government has published an evidence review of the methods used internationally to identify people experiencing hidden forms of homelessness. The report presents the challenges and limitations of the methods used internationally to identify and count hidden homeless populations and provides case studies with examples of how these methods have been used. The report states that currently there is no standardised way to measure who might be experiencing hidden homelessness in Scotland and outlines a number of lessons that are applicable to the Scottish context.

### [NES Strategy for 2023-2026 published](#)

NHS Education for Scotland (NES) has published its new strategy for 2023-26. The strategy includes a number of objectives which are focused on people, partnerships and performance including supporting the health and social care workforce including children, young people and justice services to become trauma informed and trauma responsive, and developing the education, training and tools required to support health and care professionals in meeting the Health and Social Care standards, practising Realistic Medicine and delivering value-based health and care in a way which is meaningful to their roles and those they support.

### [New measures to support women's and girls' health and wellbeing \(England\)](#)

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has announced a range of new measures to support the health and wellbeing of women and girls, including the launch of a women's health area on the NHS website, £25 million to help create women's health hubs, and greater transparency around NHS funded IVF treatment in their area.



### [Scotland's Infectious Respiratory Disease Plan 2023-24 published](#)

Public Health Scotland (PHS) has published the National Infectious Respiratory Diseases Plan 2023–2024 which outlines PHS's commitment to effectively prevent, detect and control infectious respiratory diseases. The plan states that PHS will increase the use of data and intelligence to strengthen capacity to respond to seasonal and other infectious respiratory outbreaks in the community and will focus on addressing health inequalities and system pressures that are associated with increased risk of infectious respiratory disease.

### [Insight report on improving health and reducing inequalities \(England\)](#)

The Institute for Government has published an insight paper on the barriers to cross-government co-ordination, and the opportunities to improve health and reduce inequalities. The paper summarises the lessons learned from a roundtable event organised by the Institute for Government and the Health Foundation. It suggests that government often struggles to co-ordinate cross-cutting policy programmes, and notes that participants from the roundtable event said this was true for health inequalities. The paper suggests that a whole-government approach is needed to tackle health inequalities and summarises discussions around how government could build consensus around a cross-government health agenda.

### [The relationship between the NHS and social care \(England\)](#)

The National Data Guardian has published an article on the relationship between the NHS and social care and the importance of using data. Dr Nicola Byrne, National Data Guardian for Health and Social Care, reflects on challenges brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic and says that “the relationship between health and social care is critical in ‘normal’ times”. She also reflects on discussions around data and analytics and notes that in order to improve people's health there needs to be more investment in social care and social determinants of health.

### [UK Health Security Agency strategic plan 2023-2026 \(England\)](#)

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has published its new strategic plan covering the period from 2023 to 2026. The plan sets out the UKHSA's goals and strategic priorities for the next three years. The plan recognises that health threats often disproportionately impact certain groups and states that tackling health inequalities is central to UKHSA's work.



## 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.