



28 July - 3 August 2023



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Covid-19 - General

[New Covid-19 vaccine approved by MHRA](#)

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has approved a new Covid-19 vaccine, Bimervax. The vaccine has been developed by HIPRA Human Health and can be given as a booster injection to those aged 16 and over.

[Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry August preliminary hearing](#)

The Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry has announced that applications to attend a preliminary hearing on 28 and 29 August are now open. The preliminary hearing will mark the opening of the Inquiry's public evidence-gathering process and will provide information on how the Chair of the Inquiry intends to run future hearings. The first set of hearings are due to begin in late October and will focus on the health and social care impacts of Covid-19. Those interested in attending the preliminary hearing are asked to email the Inquiry by Monday 14 August.



[Scottish Government funding to support Long Covid projects](#)

The Scottish Government has awarded £595,000 to the NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde Long Covid service. The service has received more than 340 referrals since it opened three months ago, and an expansion is planned to include a paediatric occupational therapist for children and young people. The funding is part of the Scottish Government's £10 million Long COVID Support Fund. Other projects supported by the fund include NHS Lanarkshire's long Covid Rehabilitation pathway.

Justice

[Impact of remote hearings on Scotland's civil justice system](#)

Findings from research exploring the impacts of remote hearings and other measures introduced or expanded during the Covid-19 pandemic on Scotland's civil justice system have been published by the Scottish Government. The report suggests that adoption and use of remote hearings varied considerably between different court and tribunal settings, and that views around the impacts of remote hearings were varied. The research found that remote hearings were seen as having potential benefits for certain vulnerable groups such as children and young people with additional needs and those who had experienced domestic abuse.

Other Health and Social Care

[Consultation launched on re-drafted guidance for strategic commissioning plans](#)

The Scottish Government is seeking views on the re-drafted statutory guidance for strategic commissioning plans and [performance reporting](#) to support health and social care integration. The strategic commissioning plans guidance is aimed at everyone involved in the planning and commissioning of health, social work and social care services, and the performance reporting guidance is primarily intended for those responsible for producing performance reports. The consultations will close on Friday 27 October 2023.

[Guidance for new fire alarms standards for deaf and deafblind people](#)

The Scottish Government has published guidance for the new fire alarm standard for deaf and deafblind people. The guidance states that since 2022 every home in Scotland must have a standard interlinked fire alarm system fitted to alert people to any potential danger and provides information on choosing an interlinked system that will work with specialist fire alarm accessories/ alerts for deaf people. The guidance outlines who is responsible for installing specialist fire alarm alerts/accessories for deaf or hard of hearing tenants and where to get advice and information.

[£100 million awarded to new policy research units \(England\)](#)

The National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) has awarded over £100 million to 20 new policy research units across England. The new policy research units will focus on emerging health and social care issues, and aim to respond to



policy research needs and develop research programmes that provide evidence for current and emerging research priorities.

[Scottish Equity in Screening strategy 2023-2026 published](#)

The Scottish Government has published the first Scottish Equity in Screening Strategy. The strategy notes that there are inequalities within Scotland's national screening programmes and sets out a vision to achieve equity for those eligible for screening. The strategy presents five areas where action is needed and sets out the desired outcomes within these areas. The strategy includes an action plan outlining a number of actions for the next three years.

[Summary of discussions from the Social Care Nursing conference](#)

Scottish Care has published a report on the findings from Scotland's first Social Care Nursing conference which took place in March 2023. The report highlights the importance of the nursing role in care homes in supporting safe and effective care, and suggests that there is a need to invest in nursing in care homes in order to understand the complex role and the importance of having registered nurses.

[Care Inspectorate statistical bulletin on complaints](#)

The Care Inspectorate has published a statistical bulletin on complaints about care services in Scotland, covering complaints received and investigated between April 2019 and March 2023. In 2022-23, the Care Inspectorate received 5,910 complaints, a continuation of the long-term increasing trend in concerns/complaints received.

Workforce

[iMatter survey 2022 report](#)

The Scottish Government has published an independent report by Webropol providing detailed information and analysis of staff experience in health and social care across Scotland. The report consists of data from the 2021 and 2022 iMatter survey and looks at how attitudes and experiences compare across various demographic groups.

[£600 million funding announced to boost social care workforce \(England\)](#)

The UK Government has announced a £600 million package over the next 2 years to help recruitment and retention in social care. The funding package includes a £570 million workforce fund for local authorities and £30 million funding for local authorities in the most challenged health systems.

[SSSC to fund places for the Scottish Improvement Leader Programme](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has announced that it is working with NHS Education for Scotland (NES) to offer funded places for the Scottish Improvement Leader programme (SciL). The SSSC is funding additional places for social service workers on the programme which aims to provide learning for workers



in roles with a significant focus on quality improvement and dedicated time allocated to lead improvement projects. The SSSC is inviting applications for cohorts starting in 2023/24. The application deadline is 8 September 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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