




Adult and Health



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Covid-19 - General

[Advice is for routine Covid testing to be reduced](#)

The Scottish Government has announced that routine Covid-19 testing in hospitals, care homes and prisons is to be substantially reduced following clinical and scientific advice. Public Health Scotland and Antimicrobial Resistance & Healthcare Associated Infection Scotland have recommended a return to pre-pandemic testing, which means testing will be based on person-centred clinical decisions, rather than a routine policy for all individuals. Routine testing will continue for patients moving from hospitals to care homes and will be reviewed based on future advice and outbreaks.

[Plans finalised for winter vaccination programme](#)

Public Health Scotland has confirmed that, following final advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI), plans are being finalised for the roll out of Scotland's winter vaccination programme. The programme will have an increased focus on protecting those at highest risk of becoming seriously ill from flu and Covid-19. Both flu and COVID-19 vaccines will be offered to people most vulnerable to illness and, where possible, administered at the same time.



Adult Support and Protection

[Overview of adult protection partnerships](#)

The Care Inspectorate, Healthcare Improvement Scotland and His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland, have published a review of adult protection partnerships between 2020 and 2023. The review summarises the findings, themes and key messages from the joint inspection programme, and provides a baseline of how effectively partnerships ensure adults at risk of harm are safe, supported, and protected. Generally, partnerships carried out joint adult support and protection work competently and effectively with social work overseeing this as the lead agency. Areas for improvement include preparation of clear chronologies for adults at risk of harm, improved risk assessments, and almost all partnerships need to do more to ensure the lived experience of adults at risk of harm was properly represented.

Care Homes/Care at Home

[Initiative offering mock inspections \(England\)](#)

Care England and BKR Care Consultancy have announced a partnership offering mock inspections based on the Care Quality Commission (CQC)'s inspection framework.

Food

[Vegetarian for Life awards for excellence in vegetarian care catering](#)

The Vegetarian for Life Awards for Excellence in Vegetarian Care Catering are now open for nominations, the Care Inspectorate is highlighting. The annual award recognises those who are pioneering the way in modern care catering, caterers who make a special effort to create delicious and nutritious vegan and vegetarian meals deserve special recognition.

[Guide on catering for specialist diets](#)

Care England is drawing attention to the publication of a guide for care homes on catering for residents with dysphagia, dementia, and allergies. The 'Guide to Catering for Specialist Diets in your Care Home' also explores how Nightingale Hall, a 40-bed care home made serving residents safe, nutritious, specialist nutrition meals straightforward.

Justice

[Overcrowding concerns for Barlinnie Prison](#)

BBC reports on the comments by Michael Stoney, the Governor for Barlinnie prison, who has reportedly said that Barlinnie prison is so overcrowded and outdated it could suffer a 'catastrophic failure' at any time, running at 140% capacity and 1,400 prisoners, when the prison is designed for 987. In 2020, HM Inspectorate of Prisons



(HMIPS), deemed Barlinnie to be no longer fit for purpose, and a replacement due to open in 2025 has been delayed to 2027. The Scottish government has reportedly said it is committed to building a new safe and secure HMP Glasgow.

Learning Disabilities

[Human rights and people with learning disabilities](#)

The Scottish Commission for People with Learning Disabilities (SCLD) has published a report on the state of human rights for people with learning disabilities in Scotland. The report discusses the “long-term, systemic discrimination” experienced by people with learning disabilities and the need to incorporate the United Nations Convention of Rights of Person’s with Disabilities (UNCRPD).

Older People

[Draft regulations on rules and eligibility criteria for Pension Age Disability Payment](#)

The Scottish Government has published the Draft Disability Assistance for Older People (Scotland) Regulations 2024. The draft instrument sets out the rules and eligibility criteria for Pension Age Disability Payment, a form of assistance to provide financial support to individuals who are over State Pension age with the additional costs related to their care needs, arising from a disability or health condition.

[Wellbeing sessions for people with long-term conditions](#)

Age Scotland has published the experience of a centre manager hosting one of their Wellbeing Flower sessions. The session resource aims to enhance the contribution that groups and services can make to older people's health and wellbeing, and encourage staff and others to discuss their own wellbeing.

Other Health and Social Care

[National delivery plan for Digital Health and Care Strategy](#)

The Scottish Government has published the Digital Health and Care Strategy delivery plan for 2023-24, summarising the activities required to achieve the aims of the Strategy and support local Health Boards, Health and Social Care Partnerships, local authorities, primary care, social care, social work, and care providers to offer new or improved services, with better systems, infrastructure, and improved access to digital services and products.

[Spotlight on nursing and midwifery report](#)

The Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) has published its first annual Spotlight on Nursing and Midwifery report. The annual report will share insights from the NMC’s work to support sector wide learning and improvement, and in 2023 looks at international recruitment, support for new recruits, and themes in maternity care.

**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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