


Adult
and
Health[Covid-19 - General](#)[Alcohol and Drugs](#)[Other Health & Social Care](#)[Workforce](#)**Covid-19 – General**[Preliminary hearing date set for Scottish inquiry](#)

The Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry will hold a preliminary hearing on Monday 28 August to set out how the Inquiry intends to go about its work and run future hearings. The hearing was initially due to take place over two days, however the Inquiry has confirmed that it will now be confined to 28 August. The preliminary hearing will lead into the first set of impact hearings which are due to begin in late October 2023. The preliminary hearing and substantive hearings in October will focus on the health and social care impacts of Covid-19.

Alcohol and Drugs[Statistics on drug-related deaths published by the National Records of Scotland](#)

The National Records of Scotland (NRS) has published its annual figures on drug-related deaths in Scotland. The publication includes statistics of drug-related deaths in 2022 and earlier years, broken down by age, sex, substances implicated in the death, underlying cause of death, and NHS Board and Council areas. It shows 1,051 people died due to drug misuse in 2022, noting that this is a decrease of 279 deaths compared to 2021.



Other Health and Social Care

[Autistic Adult Support Fund launched](#)

The Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport, Maree Todd, has written to the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee to highlight the launch of the Autistic Adult Support Fund. The fund will provide adults with access to support to help understand autism or the impact of an autism diagnosis including peer models of support, reducing isolation and promoting a sense of community. £1 million in annual funding is committed to the fund, however £500,000 will be made available pro rata this year as the fund is launched halfway through this financial year. The fund will be managed and advertised by Inspiring Scotland.

[New podcasts on ethical commissioning principles in social care](#)

The Coalition of Care and Support Providers in Scotland (CCPS) has launched a series of podcasts on ethical commissioning principles in social care. The podcasts feature a range of experts sharing their views on the implications and application of ethical commissioning principles developed by the Scottish Government. The first three podcasts from the series have been launched and are available on Spotify.

[Over 150 organisations call for action to tackle the injustice of poverty](#)

Over 150 charities, trade unions, campaign groups, and community organisations have called on the First Minister, Humza Yousaf, to put tackling poverty at the heart of the next Programme for Government. In a letter drafted by the Poverty Alliance, the organisations have urged the First Minister to include: a boost to people's incomes through a Minimum Income Guarantee; an expansion of funded childcare; an increase in the Scottish Child Payment; a review of the adequacy of support provided to disabled people; and a pause in pursuing people who can't pay unaffordable debts to councils and other public sector bodies.

[NES announces new Vice Chair](#)

NHS Education for Scotland (NES) has appointed Annie Gunner Logan as its new Vice Chair. Previously, Ms Logan held the position of Chief Executive Officer of the Coalition of Care and Support Providers in Scotland (CCPS), She has served as a non-executive Director of the Scottish Government since 2014, and also serves on the Executive Board of the Crown Office & Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS).

Workforce

[NES funding for technology enabled care qualification](#)

NES has announced that it will provide funding for 50 candidates to study for the Professional Development Award (PDA) in Technology Enabled Care (TEC) at SCQF Level 7. The PDA is aimed at candidates who are employed in a frontline role in social work, social care, health, and housing organisations, and includes those working in care at home or care homes, across the public, private and third sector. The closing date for applications is Thursday 31 August 2023 with the course due to start in September.



[SSSC launches new look to careers in care website](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has launched its new [careers in care website](#). The new site has a new look and includes additional resources for people looking to start a career in social work, social care or children and young people services and for social service employers looking to recruit new staff.

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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