



13-19 October 2023



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[Covid-19 - General](#)[Alcohol and Drugs](#)[Care Homes/Care at Home](#)[Equalities](#)[Other Health & Social Care](#)[Workforce](#)**Covid-19 - General**[Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry provides details of upcoming hearings](#)

The Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry has provided details of the first and second week of hearings on the health and social care impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic. The impact hearings will begin on Tuesday 24 October with the first two days consisting of opening submissions from core participants who have been granted leave to appear. The Inquiry will then continue with organisational statements from Scottish Covid Bereaved, Care Home Relatives Scotland, Alzheimer's Scotland, and other organisations.



Alcohol and Drugs

[Consultation on UK clinical guidelines for alcohol treatment](#)

The Office for Health Improvement and Disparities has launched a consultation on the draft UK clinical guidelines for alcohol treatment. The draft guidelines have been developed with the devolved governments in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and are the first ever UK-wide clinical guidelines for alcohol treatment. The guidelines consist of 27 chapters that are split into 2 documents. The first document includes chapters 1-12 which cover the core elements of alcohol treatment, and the second document includes chapters 13-27 which cover alcohol treatment in specific settings and populations. The consultation survey seeks views on the individual chapters as well as the guidance as a whole. The consultation will close on 8 December 2023.

Care Homes/Care at Home

[Care Inspectorate Wales silent inspection rating pilot extended \(Wales\)](#)

Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) silent ratings pilot for care homes and domiciliary support services has been extended to March 2025. The pilot was introduced earlier this year and was initially planned to cover services subject to inspection between June 2023 and March 2024. CIW has stated that the decision to extend the pilot will allow for learning from the independent evaluation, to make improvements and to test improvements in practice. Published inspection ratings will be introduced from April 2025.

Equalities

[Economic, social and cultural rights in the Highlands and Islands](#)

The Health and Social Care Alliance (ALLIANCE) has highlighted upcoming work of the Scottish Human Rights Commission (SHRC) in rural parts of Scotland. The SHRC will visit different areas in the Highlands and Islands in the coming weeks to gather views from those working on issues related to health, housing, education, food, clothing, culture, or social security. The ALLIANCE has noted that the SHRC will use this opportunity to report what is happening to people's economic, social and cultural rights in the Highlands and Islands and will present a report, including recommendations, to the Scottish Government in Spring 2024.

Other Health and Social Care

[Margaret Fleming Significant Case Review published](#)

Inverclyde Council has announced that the findings from an independent inquiry in the circumstances leading to the death of Margaret Fleming have been published. The Significant Case Review (SCR) was led by Professor Jean MacLellan OBE, who spoke to more than 100 people in the course of the review. The review, Remember My Name, makes a number of recommendations for all agencies involved in Margaret's life and also outlines the policy changes that have come about since



Margaret's death, including the introduction of the Adult's with Incapacity (Scotland) Act 2000.

[Consultation on HIS fees for regulation of independent healthcare services](#)

The Scottish Government has launched a consultation on Healthcare Improvement Scotland's (HIS) statutory fees for the regulation of independent healthcare services. A [consultation paper](#) has also been published which sets out proposals for reform, including the new proposed maximum fees, and provides background information on proposals to change various aspects of the regulation of independent healthcare services. The consultation will close on 11 December 2023.

[New report highlights cost of living pressures on unpaid carers](#)

ITV has reported on the latest findings from a survey conducted by Carers Scotland. It reports that 41% of the 1,770 unpaid carers surveyed have been forced to cut down on expenses and were falling into debt due to rising prices and the cost-of-living crisis. Carers Scotland has called on the Scottish Government to provide hardship funding to protect carers from poverty as well as to hurry the introduction of the Carer Support Payment which Carers Scotland says would allow carers in full time education to receive the benefit for the first time.

[Iriss article explores social work's relationship with the Prevent duty](#)

The Institute for Research and Innovation in Social Services (Iriss) has published an article on the relationship between social work and the Prevent duty. The Prevent duty is part of the UK Government's counter-terrorism strategy which requires specified authorities to help prevent the risk of people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. The article outlines the data trends in referrals to Prevent, the intersection of race and religion, and the implications for the social service workforce. It raises issues around racism and the Prevent duty, and within social work in Scotland. The article also raises issues around the Prevent duty and the Equality Act 2010, highlighting that a report by the Child Rights International Network (CRIN) suggested Prevent's surveillance of children interferes with their right to privacy.

[Care Inspectorate board members reappointed](#)

Maree Todd, Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport, has announced that Mrs Rona Fraser and Professor Paul Gray have been reappointed as members of the Care Inspectorate Board. Mrs Fraser's reappointment will be for four years, from 16 March 2024 to 15 March 2028, and Professor Gray's reappointment will be for two years, from 16 March 2024 to 15 March 2026.

Workforce

[Data suggests qualification levels and pay have fallen for care workers \(England\)](#)

Community Care has highlighted the findings from Skills for Care's annual State of the Adult Social Care Sector and Workforce in England report which suggests that the number of care workers that hold a level 2 qualification is lower now than in 2018. It highlights that high inflation rates have meant the average care worker pay has fallen in real terms. The report also identified that overseas recruitment had



contributed to an improvement in the overall vacancy rate of the workforce. The [Social Care Institute for Excellence \(SCIE\)](#) and the [Nursing and Midwifery Council \(NMC\)](#) have responded to the report and welcomed the announcement that Skills for Care will develop a workforce strategy.

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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