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bulletin



# Adult and Health

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## Covid-19 - General

[Covid-19 Inquiry begins health and social care impact hearings](#)

The Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry has begun taking evidence as part of its health and social care impact hearings. The Inquiry has heard opening statements from core participants, including Scottish Ministers, Scottish Care, the Care Inspectorate and Scottish Covid Bereaved. Ahead of the hearings the Inquiry also published [additional academic research](#) and a [timeline of key dates](#) from the Covid-19 pandemic.

## Alcohol and Drugs

[National Mission on Drugs 2022-23 annual report](#)

The Scottish Government has published an annual report on the National Mission on Drugs, setting out the progress made in reducing drug deaths and improving the lives of people impacted by drugs in Scotland. The report includes the progress made across cross-cutting priorities but notes that while there was a reduction in drug deaths in 2022 the figures for the first half of 2023 show that this can't yet be considered as a downward trend.



## **Alzheimer's/Dementia**

### [Project using VR to give better understanding of lived experience of dementia](#)

A project using virtual reality (VR) to provide an insight into the daily lives and challenges of people with dementia is the subject of an article on [healthandcare.scot](#). The charity Age Scotland is working with Virtual Reality Empathy Platform to show designers, housebuilders, planners, carers and care workers the potential challenges of living with dementia and what dementia-friendly design looks like.

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

### [Care home review website lists 'top care homes' for 2023](#)

Care home review website [carehome.co.uk](#) has named its 'top care homes' in 2023. The awards, which list 20 care homes in 12 regions across the UK, are based on reviews written by residents, as well as friends and relatives.

## **Carers**

### [Almost three quarters believe care work not valued highly enough, survey suggests](#)

Nearly three quarters (74%) of adults in Scotland believe that care work is not valued highly enough, according to a survey carried out on behalf of the A Scotland That Cares campaign. According to the YouGov survey, this represents a jump of 14% since 2020. Of the 1,012 people polled, a majority don't think the increased attention on the role of carers during the pandemic resulted in additional practical support for paid carers (57%), unpaid carers (61%) or parents (55%). The campaign, backed by over 60 organisations including Scottish Care, urges the Scottish Government to address the issues raised and calls for a new dedicated National Outcome on care.

## **Equalities**

### [Committee reports on rights of asylum seekers in Scotland](#)

A report on the human rights of asylum seekers in Scotland has been published by a committee at the Scottish Parliament. The Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee concludes there are ways the Scottish Government and local authorities can address some of the issues faced by asylum seekers, despite it being a reserved issue. The Committee suggests several potential actions, including finding ways around the Illegal Migration Act to support trafficked people, advocating for a devolved national referral mechanism for the identification of victims of trafficking and additional resource for third sector organisations who support asylum seekers.

## **Learning Disabilities**

### [SCLD launches short film on experiences of hate crime](#)

The Scottish Commission for People with Learning Disabilities (SCLD) and partners have launched a short film about people with learning disabilities' experiences of



hate crime. We are More was launched as part of National Hate Crime Awareness Week.

## Older People

### [Charity highlights winter death figures](#)

Age Scotland has expressed concern at new figures on winter deaths in 2022/23. According to [National Records of Scotland](#), 24,427 deaths were registered in Scotland between December 2022 and March 2023, the highest number since 1989/90. Age Scotland pointed out that the cause of death with the largest seasonal increase was dementia and Alzheimer's disease, "highlighting the ongoing importance of early diagnosis, preventative social care, access to self-directed support and appropriate post-diagnostic support, including community-based support, for those living with dementia".

## Workforce

### [CCPS calls for further social care pay increase following Real Living Wage rise](#)

All social care staff should be paid at least £13 an hour from April 2024 following the announced increase in the Real Living Wage, according to the Coalition of Care and Support Providers in Scotland (CCPS). The Scottish Government previously announced a £12 per hour base rate of pay for social care staff, starting in April. However, following the [announcement](#) that the Real Living Wage will rise to £12 an hour, CCPS Chief Executive Rachel Cackett said the First Minister's offer should be improved "as part of a published timetable to achieve Fair Work" and "to indicate in tough times that our government sees the value of our sector and is committed to ending deep inequities for social care staff in Scotland".

### [Significant reform needed to address workforce challenges, says Auditor General](#)

Public sector reform will need to deliver change quickly to address workforce challenges, according to a report by the Auditor General for Scotland. The report notes Scottish Government projections that it cannot afford to pay for public services in their current form, while pay deals agreed for 2022/23 and 2023/24 were £1.7bn more than initially planned and are locked into future budgets. The Auditor General suggests the Scottish Government needs better data on the size, cost and skillset of the workforce in over 100 of its public bodies to help support the process of reform.

## Other Health and Social Care

### [Scottish Government publishes Health and Social Care Winter Preparedness Plan](#)

The Scottish Government has published its Health and Social Care Winter Preparedness Plan 2023-24. The Plan sets out a whole system approach for responding to a surge in demand for health and social care services and encourages a preventative approach as far as possible to relieve pressure on the system. Seven winter planning priorities are identified, sitting under three core principles: Right care,



right time, right place; A partnership approach across the whole system; Local and national actions we know work.

### [Good practice guidance on AWI delayed discharge published](#)

Good practice examples of Adults with Incapacity (AWI) delayed discharge have been compiled and published by the Scottish Government. Over the past year the Scottish Government has met with health and social care partnerships from across Scotland and has produced guidance aiming to provide models of good practice to support a reduction in delayed discharges where adults lack capacity.

### [Annual returns available for completion between 8 January – 18 February](#)

This year's annual returns will be available to service providers for completion between 8 January and 18 February 2024. Annual returns give us important information that helps us plan, inform and carry out our inspections and improvement work. We share some of the information with other organisations, such as the Scottish Social Services Council and the Scottish Government, and we use it to produce several statistical publications that you can view on our website.

### [Care leaver payment plans announced by First Minister](#)

Young people in Scotland who are transitioning from the care system into adulthood will receive a one-off payment of £2,000 to support them in independent living, the First Minister has announced. The proposed Care Leaver payment will be co-designed with care experienced people to ensure it meets their needs and helps reduce some of the financial challenges they face. The First Minister made the announcement at the Scottish Throughcare and Aftercare Forum in Glasgow.

### [National Care Service Forum Easy Read Programme](#)

The Scottish Government has provided an easy read version of the National Care Service Forum Programme. The Forum is due to take place on 30 November in Glasgow, with panel members including Social Care Minister Maree Todd.

### [Annual Ending Homeless Together report published](#)

The annual Ending Homelessness Together report for 2023 has been published by the Scottish Government. The report looks at progress made in the last 12 months by national government, local government and third sector partners towards ending homelessness in Scotland, detailing this against a list of identified actions.

### [CQC highlights risk of 'unfair' provision in annual State of Care report \(England\)](#)

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has published its annual assessment of health and social care services in England, highlighting the risk of "unfair care". The State of Care report identifies trends, shares examples of good and outstanding care, and highlights where care needs to improve. According to the report covering 2022/23, the combination of the cost of living crisis and workforce pressures risks impacting both the quality of care people receive and providers' ability to re-invest in services.



## 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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