



Adult
and
Health



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Alcohol and Drugs

[Expansion of access to naloxone kits for community pharmacies](#)

The Scottish Government has announced the expansion of access to naloxone kits, which reverse the effects of an opioid overdose, to community pharmacies. All community pharmacies will now hold at least two naloxone kits - either a nasal spray or injectable.



Care Homes/Care at Home

[Review of psychoactive medicines in care homes for older people during the pandemic](#)

The Scottish Government commissioned the Care Inspectorate to examine the prescribing, use and review of psychoactive medication in care homes for older people during the pandemic, and a review has been published of the findings. The findings show that although overall there was a small reduction in the number of contacts with care homes at the beginning of the Covid-19 first wave, the prescribing of psychoactive medicines was unaffected; external healthcare professionals used alternative methods to remain in contact with homes. The review also makes recommendations and identifies some examples of care homes using person-centred, non-pharmacological approaches to manage stress and distress symptoms and reduce the need for use of psychoactive medicines.

[Demand for care at home services](#)

Public Health Scotland has published information on the Demand for Care at Home Services, including the total number of individuals waiting for an assessment for social care services, the number of people waiting for a package of care at home and the number of hours of care that are being waited for. Main points include that the number of people estimated to be waiting on a social care assessment to enable them to live independently at home or in the community was just under 5,900 on 9 October 2023, and the estimated number of people assessed and waiting for a care at home package was just over 3,900 on 9 October 2023.

[Pilot scheme to monitor infections in care homes \(England\)](#)

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has announced a pilot scheme to monitor infections in care homes in England. The new pilot builds on the success of the Vivaldi study during the pandemic, with a wider remit to study other infections. The pilot will work with over 500 care homes in England to monitor infections such as COVID-19, flu, norovirus, and urinary tract infections, and analyse the resultant anonymised data in order to help reduce infections in care homes for older adults.

End of Life/Palliative Care

[Priorities agreed by Palliative and End of Life Care Strategy Steering Group](#)

The Scottish Government has published a factsheet outlining the aims, principles and priorities agreed by the Palliative and End of Life Care Strategy Steering Group to support the development of new palliative and end of life care (PEOLC) strategy for Scotland. The two overarching aims are that everyone in Scotland receives well-coordinated, timely and high-quality palliative care, care around death and bereavement support based on their needs and preferences including support for families and carers, and that Scotland is a place where people and communities can come together to support each other, take action, and talk openly about planning ahead, serious illness, dying, death, and bereavement.



Mental Health

[Annual report for Mental Welfare Commission](#)

The Mental Welfare Commission (MWC) has published their annual report for 2022-23, explaining their work completed over the year such as a report on care and treatment for people with mental ill health and drug or alcohol issues, or linking with NHS Education for Scotland to create new training materials for staff working in health, social care and social work settings about the use of incapacity laws.

[Review of NHS Talking Therapies shows inequality of access \(England\)](#)

The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) is highlighting the publication of an independent review of services provided by NHS Talking Therapies in England, which reportedly shows that Black and minority ethnic people are less likely to access services, and tend to wait longer for assessment and treatment compared to white British people.

Older People

[Event on reframing ageing and older age \(10 November 2023\)](#)

Scottish Care are hosting an event, 'The Truth about Ageing' on 10 November 2023 in Alloa, aiming to reframe the perception of ageing and older age and advocating for perceiving ageing as an opportunity for thriving. Utilising Forum Theatre, an interactive theatrical approach empowering the audience to actively reshape the narrative, the event seeks to reshape societal perspectives on ageing and older age.

Other Health and Social Care

[Statistical summary report for Quarter 2 of 2023/24](#)

The Care Inspectorate has published Statistical Summary Report for Quarter 2 of 2023/24, presenting data on the number of registered care services, new registrations and cancellations, complaints about care services and quality theme grades all by care service type and or service sector.

[Student resources supporting understanding of the role of the nursing council](#)

The Nursing & Midwifery Council (NMC) have published resources to support students in their understanding of the role of the NMC and how to get the best out of their education.

[Research on innovation in social care](#)

The University of Strathclyde's Fraser of Allander Institute has published a report exploring the potential for innovation clusters in Scotland's social care sector and the role of public sector investment in supporting such development. The research focused on the possible role of the National Care Service in stimulating innovation in social care delivery.



[SPSO publishes Annual Report and Financial Statements](#)

The Scottish Public Services Ombudsman (SPSO) has published its Annual Report and Financial Statements for 2022-23. Highlights include: 3,527 public service complaints received and 3,829 closed; 66% of public service complaint investigations upheld; 350 recommendations made to public bodies, 52% relating to learning and improvement.

[Public health conference \(1 May 2024\)](#)

Public Health Scotland, the Faculty of Public Health, and the Scottish Directors of Public Health Group will host a public health Conference on 1 May 2024 in Glasgow. With the theme of 'Inspiring Change', the conference aims to bring together public health professionals, academics, policymakers, and colleagues from across the third sector to share knowledge and drive forward work to protect and improve health for the people of Scotland.

[Care Inspectorate Wales Annual report \(Wales\)](#)

The annual report for 2022-23 has been published by Care Inspectorate Wales, outlining their work throughout the year. The report sets out who Care Inspectorate Wales are, what they have found out, work with local councils and social services, and information on adult and children's services.

Workforce

[Survey report on social worker filled posts and vacancies](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has published a six-monthly survey report which analyses the landscape of Scotland's filled and vacant social worker and senior social worker posts in local authorities. Key findings from the report include that almost all local authorities that responded find it difficult to fill social worker vacancies, with the main reasons that there are too few applicants and too few applicants with experience or qualifications. Other challenges to filling social worker posts include remoteness of posts and competing salaries offered by neighbouring local authorities.

**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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