

22 December 2023- 11
January 2024



bulletin



Adult and Health



[Covid-19 - General](#)

[Care Homes/Care at Home](#)

[Disabilities](#)

[Justice](#)

[Other Health & Social Care](#)

[Workforce](#)

Covid-19 - General

[RCN calls for revision of UK Covid-19 guidelines to protect health care staff](#)

The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) has called for a revision of current UK guidelines in light of a new Covid-19 variant and advice from the World Health Organisation (WHO) to implement universal masking in health facilities and other personal protective equipment for health workers that care for Covid-19 patients, and to improve ventilation in health facilities.

[Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry hearings postponed](#)

The Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry has announced that the next tranche of health and social care impact hearings will be rescheduled. This is due to the Chair of the Inquiry requiring surgery. The Inquiry's other work will continue as planned.



Care Homes/Care at Home

[Review of homecare medicines in Scottish communities](#)

The Health and Social Care Alliance (the Alliance) is calling on those who receive homecare medicines, and family members and carers, to share their views on what matters most to them when receiving homecare medicines. The review is being carried in partnership with the Scottish Government.

[Date confirmed for the Care at Home & Housing Support Conference 2024](#)

This year's National Care at Home & Housing Support Conference will take place on Friday 17 May 2024 at the Radisson Blu in Glasgow. More details about the event and how to register will be available soon.

Disabilities

[Consultation on proposed Learning Disabilities, Autism and Neurodivergence Bill](#)

A consultation on a proposed Learning Disabilities, Autism and Neurodivergence Bill has been launched by the Scottish Government. The consultation, which runs until 21 April, is seeking views on proposals to better respect, protect and champion the rights of people with learning disabilities, autism and neurodivergent. The consultation is wide-ranging, covering topics such as definitions, social and complex care, transitions, independent advocacy, and mental health and capacity law.

Justice

[Review of justice social work statistics in Scotland](#)

The findings from a survey of users of justice social work statistics in Scotland have been published by the Scottish Government. The report highlights a number of recommendations for the future of justice social work statistics and how these will be implemented over the coming years. The report notes plans to improve the timing of published data, including providing some of the data earlier by splitting publications into two parts, and changes to publication commentary.

[£148 million in funding announced for community justice services](#)

The Scottish Government has highlighted plans to invest £148 million in community justice services in 2024-25. The funding is set out in the draft 2024-25 budget and includes an additional £14 million to encourage wider use of robust community-based interventions.

Other Health and Social Care

[Annual returns now live](#)

The annual return is now available for services to complete between Monday 8 January and Sunday 17 March 2024. All service types must complete their annual



returns electronically, using the Care Inspectorate's eForms system. The annual return gives us important information that helps us plan, inform and carry out our inspections and improvement work. We also 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.

[Findings from the second National Care Service annual forum published](#)

The Scottish Government has published the findings from the second National Care Service (NCS) annual forum which was held in October 2023. The report includes a link to watch the speeches from the day, the main opinions shared by attendees, and summaries of roundtable discussions. It also outlines the next steps for the NCS and notes that there will be a NCS Board to operate and manage shared accountability for NCS services. An [easy read version](#) of the report and a [supplementary report](#) on the NCS summer forums have also been published.

[SSSC opens applications for independent Panel Members](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) is looking for people to sit as independent Panel Members on its Fitness to Practise Panels. The SSSC are looking for applicants from all backgrounds, particularly Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities, and are also encouraging applications from younger people. The closing date for applications is 4 February 2024.

[Accessible information in Self-directed Support and social care](#)

The Health and Social Care Alliance (the Alliance) is running a number of focus groups to help inform the Scottish Government's work to improve accessible information on Self-Directed Support (SDS) and social care. The Alliance is calling on adults with a sensory impairment to take part in the focus groups or to provide feedback through an online survey.

Workforce

[New NES essential learning module on equality, diversity and human rights](#)

A new essential learning module offering an introduction to equality, diversity and human rights has been launched by NHS Education for Scotland (NES). Health Boards and health and social care organisations are encouraged to use the module, which was developed with the input and expertise of partners.



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.

It should also be noted that the Care Inspectorate has no liability in respect of the content of external websites which may be signposted on this site.