



Adult
and
Health



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Covid-19 - General

[UK Covid Inquiry begins hearings in Scotland](#)

The UK Covid-19 Inquiry's Module 2A hearings begin in Scotland on Tuesday 16 January 2024, looking into core political and administrative governance and decision-making. It will include the initial response, devolved government decision making, political and civil service performance as well as the effectiveness of relationships with the UK government and local and voluntary sectors. Public Health Scotland has published its [opening statement](#) for Module 2A.

[Solicitor appointed to Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry](#)

The Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry has announced the appointment of Pauline Reid as Solicitor, taking over from the Interim Solicitor in leading the legal team, advising the Chair and supporting a range of Inquiry workstreams and functions.



Alzheimer's/Dementia

[Supporting self management for people living with dementia](#)

The Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (the ALLIANCE) highlights that a report has been published by Alzheimer Scotland, Lab 4 Living and NHS Scotland on work undertaken to support self management for people living with dementia. The report, 'Occupational Therapy Co-designing their Contribution to Diagnostic Support for People Living with Dementia: Journeying through Dementia 2020-2023' outlines the work of an occupation-based intervention that enables people at an earlier point in their dementia journey to engage in meaningful activities, maintain community connectedness and supports independence and wellbeing following a diagnosis.

Justice

[Information on justice social work activity](#)

The Scottish Government has published Justice Social Work Statistics In Scotland: 2022-23, presenting national-level information on justice social work activity in Scotland and including data on justice social work services and social work orders, as well as characteristics of the individuals involved. Amongst other key findings, the information reportedly shows that the number of diversion from prosecution cases commenced fell by two per cent between 2021-22 and 2022-23 to 2,600, there were 1,100 bail supervision cases commenced in 2022-23, and the number of criminal justice social work reports submitted (including supplementary reports) rose by 15 per cent between 2021-22 and 2022-23 to 26,400. All of the statistics and information are treated with caution due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on justice social work which has resulted in lower volumes of cases going through courts.

Mental Health

[Commission starts visits to community mental health teams](#)

The Mental Welfare Commission has published reports from visits to wards and units for people with mental ill health, learning disability, dementia or related conditions, and in 2024 will start to visit community mental health teams.

[Terms of Reference for suicide prevention leadership group](#)

The Terms of Reference for the National Suicide Prevention Leadership Group have been published by the Scottish Government's Mental Health Directorate. The purpose of the Group is to champion and drive suicide prevention in Scotland by advising the Scottish Government and COSLA on the progress, direction and priorities of Creating Hope Together, Scotland's Suicide Prevention Strategy 2022-2032), advising Scotland's Suicide Prevention National Delivery Lead and Delivery Collective on strategic issues affecting delivery, and advising, including at their request, Scottish Government and COSLA on any broader issues connected with suicide prevention.



[Public opinion on personal well-being and loneliness](#)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has published 'Public opinions and social trends, Great Britain: 13 December 2023 to 1 January 2024', focusing on adults' personal well-being and loneliness. Amongst other findings, the survey reports that around a quarter (27%) of adults reported they felt lonely always, often or some of the time, average levels of personal well-being remained similar to the same period a year ago, and the most commonly reported issues are the cost of living (87%), the NHS (86%), the economy (67%), climate change and the environment (59%) and housing (56%).

Other Health and Social Care

[Extension of stage 1 for National Care Service Bill](#)

The Scottish Parliament has agreed to extend the consideration of the National Care Service (Scotland) Bill at stage 1 to 1st March 2024.

[Transport poverty and public health](#)

Public Health Scotland has published a briefing on transport poverty and how it affects public health. Based on a review of key literature and engagement with a wide range of partners, the briefing highlights the causes of transport poverty and how it contributes to poor health, providing recommendations to increase awareness of the issue and guide actions for change.

[Partners sought for projects with Iriss](#)

The Institute for Research and Innovation in Social Services (Iriss) is seeking projects partners for 2024/25 for its work in implementing innovation and change in social work and social care.

[Lipreading courses](#)

The Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (the ALLIANCE) is publicising free lipreading courses by Deaf Action for adults aged 16 years old plus with any degree of deafness and who use spoken English to communicate with other people. The courses will be held in person in Glasgow or online via Zoom, and aim to teach the different shapes that sounds make on the lips, which sounds look the same on the lips and how to use context and other clues to tell the difference, communication tactics that can support lipreading and encourage you to manage hearing loss more effectively e.g. how best to position yourself in a group conversation, and how to discuss problems and solutions to everyday situations such as having a meal in a restaurant or going to the doctor.

**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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