



Adult
and
Health



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Covid-19 - General

[Plans to be finalised for roll out of vaccination programme](#)

Public Health Scotland (PHS) has confirmed that, following advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI), Scottish Government and PHS will work with NHS boards to finalise plans for the roll out of Scotland's spring COVID-19 vaccination programme.

[Preliminary hearing for fifth inquiry investigation](#)

The UK Covid-19 Inquiry has held the first preliminary hearing for the fifth investigation into procurement across the UK. At preliminary hearings, the Inquiry Chair makes decisions about how investigations will run, and the fifth investigation will consider and make recommendations on the procurement and distribution across the United Kingdom of key healthcare related equipment and supplies, including PPE, ventilators and oxygen. It will also consider the UK-wide procurement of lateral flow tests and PCR tests.

[Differences between UK and Scottish Covid Inquiries](#)

The Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry has launched a short video explaining the differences between the Scottish and UK Covid-19 Inquiries, which talks viewers through the main differences between the two inquiries, including the periods they are investigating, their respective Terms of Reference and how each inquiry is sequencing its public hearings.



Adult Support and Protection

[Joint inspection of adult support and protection in North Ayrshire](#)

The Care Inspectorate has published an inspection report of adult support and protection measures in the North Ayrshire area, which found clear strengths in ensuring adults at risk of harm are safe, protected and supported but also identified key areas for improvement. Overall, adult support and protection inquiries were undertaken in line with the code of practice, the quality and competence of adult support and protection investigations was a clear strength, the creation of an NHS Ayrshire and Arran associate nurse director for public protection and other initiatives, impacted positively on health operational practice and strategic partnerships, and the partnership's strategic leadership was committed to continuous learning and improvement.

[Raising awareness of how to support adults that may be at risk](#)

The Institute for Research and Innovation in Social Services (Iriss) is highlighting National Adult Support and Protection Awareness Day, which year will have a dual focus on raising awareness of how to support adults that may be at risk, and also a focus on the emergent and growing issue of Sextortion Scams. Two animations have been shared by Iriss ahead of the Day on 20 February 2024.

Alzheimer's/Dementia

[Programme aimed at helping people with dementia live independently at home](#)

The Alzheimer's Society are publicising the initial results of a New Interventions for Independence in Dementia (NIDUS-Family) programme aimed at helping people with dementia live independently at home for as long as possible. A centre of excellence funded by the Alzheimer's Society at Queen Mary's University London has co-designed the programme with unpaid/family carers and people living with dementia and is designed to empower the carers to provide high-quality care to people living with dementia. The trial programme has reportedly showed that the programme successfully enabled people reach their goals regardless of the type or stage of dementia.

Justice

[National hub to support women out of prostitution](#)

The Scottish Government has announced a pilot for a national hub to support women out of prostitution, bringing specialist services which support women affected by commercial sexual exploitation (CSE) – linking them more closely with local mainstream services, such as housing, health and social security. The national hub is part of a new strategy to support women to safely exit from prostitution and challenge men's demand for prostitution, and also includes actions to tackle stigma for those with experience of prostitution and challenge the normalisation of men purchasing sex.



Other Health and Social Care

[Resignations in health and social care ministerial team](#)

The Scottish Government has confirmed that Drugs and Alcohol Policy Minister Elena Whitham has tendered her resignation to the First Minister and stepped down from her ministerial post for health reasons. BBC News is [reporting](#) that Cabinet Secretary for NHS Recovery, Health and Social Care Michael Matheson has also resigned from his position.

[Independent Panel Members sought for SSSC](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) is looking for people to sit as independent Panel Members on their Fitness to Practise Panels for 20 days per year. They are looking to people who do not have a background in social services (lay members).

Workforce

[Distribution of social service workforce](#)

A report by the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) examines how the workforce in the social service sector (as defined by the Public Service Reform Scotland Act 2010) is distributed across employers of different size and types. Key findings include that the overall workforce increased in size and the number of registered services fell between 2012 and 2022, in December 2022 there were approximately 2,500 separate providers operating in the social service sector in Scotland, and of the providers operating, just over 20% are medium to large, and those providers employ around 85% of the sector's workforce.

[Survey on workforce digital skills](#)

The Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (the ALLIANCE) has launched a survey on workforce digital skills across the health, social care and housing sector. The ALLIANCE's Digitally Enabled Workforce (DEW) Team plan to develop a package of support for organisations to maximise the impact that digital champions can have on the digital and data skills of the workforce, and are looking for feedback to understand the use of digital champion networks.

**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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