

23-29 February 2024



bulletin



Adult and Health



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Covid-19 - General

[Requests to attend health and social care impact hearings open](#)

The Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry is now accepting requests to attend the first three weeks of the second tranche of its health and social care impact hearings. Requests to attend should be submitted to the Inquiry by 1 March 2024.

Care Homes/Care at Home

[Open Badges on meaningful connection, visiting and Anne's Law](#)

The Care Inspectorate's Meaningful Connection, Visiting and Anne's Law project team, in partnership with SSSC, have developed a series of Open Badges on different aspects of meaningful connection. The badges, linked to the project's series of webinars and factsheets, provide an opportunity for staff to reflect upon, develop, and evidence their understanding of and commitment to supporting meaningful connection in day to day practice. They will also be helpful for employers to use as part of staff training and development, and for staff to evidence their Continuous Professional Learning. The badges are geared towards staff working in care homes for adults and older people, but will also be of interest to those working in other services.



Mental Health

[Latest visit reports published by Mental Welfare Commission](#)

The Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland has published 10 new reports following visits to mental health and learning disability services in Scotland. The reports highlight the importance of involving individuals, their families and carers in planning person-centred care.

[Public Audit Committee report on adult mental health](#)

The Public Audit Committee has published a report following its scrutiny of the Audit Scotland report on adult mental health services in Scotland which was published in September 2023. The Committee gathered evidence from relevant stakeholders around issues raised in the Audit Scotland report and note that it “heard compelling evidence that the demand for mental health care is continuing to rise, with the Covid-19 pandemic and cost-of living crisis compounding the issues faced by an adult mental health system already under significant strain”.

[Commission raises concerns on the use of compulsory treatment orders](#)

The Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland has raised concerns on how compulsory community treatment orders (CCTOs) are working in Scotland. The Commission has highlighted that there has been an increase of 44% in the use of CCTOs in the last decade and note that even though CCTOs can be effective they need to work better. In its report, the Commission raised concerns around the duration of orders and around the lack of planning to support those on CCTOs to come off the order or receive care and support that might lead to a more positive future.

Older People

[Charity calls on Health Secretary to address concerns on access to care](#)

Age Scotland’s chief executive has written to the Cabinet Secretary for NHS Recovery, Health and Social Care, Neil Gray, highlighting the challenges faced by older people accessing health and care. In her letter, Ms Crawford shared findings from Age Scotland’s Big Survey 2023 and outlined five priority areas identified by older people which include cutting waiting times, bringing forward the renewed health and social care strategy for older people, introducing a timeline to scrap day care charges, action to embed Anne’s Law into legislation, and addressing resource, staffing and availability challenges in social care.

Other Health and Social Care

[Lead Committee publishes Stage 1 report on National Care Service Bill](#)

The Health, Social Care and Sport Committee has published its Stage 1 report on the National Care Service (Scotland) Bill. The report includes 111 recommendations,



and calls on the Scottish Government to publish a number of documents before Stage 2, including draft amendments and an updated Policy Memorandum. The Committee has given notice that it will require additional time to take further oral and written evidence from key stakeholders once these documents are made available, and calls on the Scottish Government to publish the documents required no later than 29 March 2024. Subject to these conditions, the Committee recommends that the general principles of the Bill be agreed to.

[Independent report explores developments in adult social care eligibility criteria](#)

The Scottish Government has published an independent report exploring developments and innovations in adult social care eligibility criteria in the UK. The report, written by Dr Emma Miller, includes findings around the language associated with social care, access to social care, the role of social work, eligibility criteria and other themes. It identifies a number of key challenges including how social care in Scotland is viewed and states that the “way we talk about social care in Scotland needs to shift so that it is viewed as a solution to social challenges, not just crises”.

**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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