

8-14 March 2024



bulletin



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Covid-19 - General

[Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry restarts health and social care hearings](#)

The Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry has provided a timetable for the for the first 2 weeks of the second tranche of health and social care impact hearings. The timetable covers hearings from 12 March to 22 March. Anyone wishing to attend the hearings in person must request a place in advance.

Care Homes/Care at Home

[Increased funding for care homes providing nursing care \(England\)](#)

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has announced a 7.4% increase in the rate paid to care homes for NHS funded care for the period 2024 to 2025. The standard weekly rate per person will go up from £219.71 to £235.88 from 1 April 2024, with funding paid by the NHS directly to care homes who provide nursing care. For the higher rate, it will increase from £302.25 to £324.50.



Disabilities

[Call for Advisory Group members to support Independent Review of Adult Disability Payment](#)

The Scottish Government is calling on individuals from different backgrounds to join an Advisory Group to support the Independent Review of Adult Disability Payment. The Independent Review will look into people's experiences of the first year of Adult Disability Payment, as well as the eligibility criteria, and is due to issue a final report in July 2025. The work of the Advisory Group will help inform the Chair in making recommendations to the Scottish Government. The deadline for expressions of interest to join the Advisory Group is 29 March 2024.

Justice

[New quality framework for Justice \(offender\) accommodation](#)

The Care Inspectorate has launched a new quality framework for Justice (offender) accommodation services. It reflects Scotland's Health and Social Care Standards which are rights-based, person-led and outcome-focused. The primary purpose of the framework is to support services to self-evaluate their own performance. It will also be used by our inspectors to provide independent assurance about the quality of care and support. By setting out what we expect to see in high-quality care and support provision, it can help support improvement too.

Mental Health

[Progress update on Scotland's Suicide Prevention Strategy](#)

The Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee has published a briefing by the Scottish Government providing an update on Scotland's Suicide Prevention Strategy 2022-2032. The Scottish Government has noted progress made in the first full year of delivery, 2023-24, including the establishment of new delivery and advisory structures. The 2024-25 delivery plan is currently under development.

Older People

[Charity warns of drop in older people receiving social care packages](#)

Age Scotland has highlighted newly published figures from Public Health Scotland which suggest that there has been a 4.1% reduction in over 65s receiving social care packages in 2022/23 compared to pre-pandemic. The charity has stated that difficulties around accessing social care assessments and long waiting times for packages are likely to be behind this drop in numbers. It notes that in 2019/20 there were 174,015 older people receiving social care packages but that this figure dropped to 166,900 in 2022/23.



Other Health and Social Care

[Joint inspection of adult support and protection measures in East Dunbartonshire](#)

The Care Inspectorate has published a joint inspection report of adult support and protection measures in the East Dunbartonshire area which found clear strengths in ensuring adults at risk of harm are safe, protected and supported. Inspectors found that adult support and protection inquiries were undertaken in line with the revised code of practice. They were comprehensive, collaborative, and effectively determined whether the relevant criteria was met. Inspectors also noted that the partnership should promote more consistent use of chronologies to inform analysis and better reflect the impact of life events on the adult at risk of harm.

[The ALLIANCE 2023 annual report](#)

The Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (the ALLIANCE) has published its 2023 annual report. The report highlights the number of ALLIANCE members has now risen to over 3,500 and provides information around the different programmes and achievements from the past year.

Workforce

[SSSC to pause registration applications from April to June](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) will pause registration applications from 10 April to 3 June this year to allow changes to the Register to be made. The SSSC is making significant changes to the Register, including reducing the number of Register parts from 23 to 4 and reducing the period for workers starting a new role to apply for registration to 3 months. The SSSC is encouraging staff in new roles to apply for registration in good time to ensure that they are registered within the currently required 6 months. This will change from 3 June and any staff starting from this date will have 3 months to apply for registration.

Also taking effect from 3 June:

- The introduction of [return to practice requirements](#) for social workers
- New [continuous professional learning requirements](#) for registrants, with a focus on key skills and knowledge

[New rules restricting care workers from bringing dependants to the UK](#)

New immigration rules aimed at cutting net migration and tackling visa abuse have now come into force. The new rules include restricting care workers from bringing dependants to the UK and requiring care providers in England acting as sponsors for migrant workers to register with the Care Quality Commission (CQC). Other changes include the removal of the Shortage Occupation List (SOL) which will be replaced with a new Immigration Salary List on 4 April, and a 48% increase to the minimum salary required for those arriving on the Skilled Worker visa.

**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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