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bulletin



# Adult and Health

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### **Covid-19 - General**

#### [Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry timetable for week 3 of hearings](#)

The Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry has announced the timetable for week 3 of its second tranche of health and social care impact hearings. Anyone wishing to attend the hearings in person must request a place in advance.

#### [First preliminary hearing for care sector module](#)

The UK Covid-19 Inquiry has held the first preliminary hearing for the investigation into the care sector across the UK (Module 6). Module 6 will look at the impact of the pandemic on the publicly and privately funded adult social care sector in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

#### [UK Covid-19 Inquiry opens Module 7 of its investigation](#)

The UK Covid-19 Inquiry has opened Module 7 of its investigation: Test, Trace and Isolate across the UK. This module will look into the approach to testing, tracing and isolation adopted during the pandemic in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland from January 2020 until February 2022. The public hearings for this module are planned for summer 2025.



## **Alcohol and Drugs**

### [Stabilisation, detoxification and other crisis support in Scotland](#)

The Scottish Government has published the findings from a service mapping and capacity survey of stabilisation, detoxification and other crisis support providers in Scotland. The survey found a total of 65 providers offering some form of detoxification, stabilisation or other crisis support with regard to substance use. The survey also identified 38 providers offering a form of stabilisation with the majority of these providers consisting of statutory organisations (NHS hospitals or other statutory organisations). The report concludes that further research is required to gain a better understanding of the level of need and demand for people at a point of crisis.

## **Alzheimer's/Dementia**

### [Projects tackling dementia across the UK awarded share of £6m funding](#)

The Department for Science, Innovation and Technology has announced the appointment of Scott Mitchell as the People's Champion of the national mission to beat dementia which was founded in his late wife's, Dame Barbara Windsor, memory. It has also announced that ten projects across the UK have been awarded a share of £6 million to support dementia diagnosis and research into dementia biomarkers. The funding comes from the Innovate UK's Small Business Research Initiative (SBRI) dementia biomarker tools competition.

## **Justice**

### [First delivery plan update for National Strategy for Community Justice](#)

The first update to the National Strategy for Community Justice: Delivery Plan has been published by the Scottish Government. The delivery plan was first published in May 2023 and is expected to be updated twice a year. This first update to the plan covers the period from June 2023 to December 2023 and outlines the work completed or underway for each deliverable set out in the plan. The updated plan notes that 7 deliverables have now been completed, 25 are in progress, 6 are in progress with revised timescales, and 3 remain outstanding.

## **Mental Health**

### [New campaign launched to tackle mental health stigma](#)

The Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (the ALLIANCE) has highlighted a new campaign by See Me to tackle the negative impacts shame has on people with a mental illness. The new campaign, *If It's Okay*, which is running across Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and England, aims to help people with a mental illness speak up about their experiences.



### [Literature review findings to support development of a self-harm strategy for Scotland](#)

The findings from a literature review aimed at better understanding lived experiences of self harm have been published by the Scottish Government. The study describes 3 overarching themes relating to self-harm, including context and culture, and identifies 3 opportunity areas, indicating areas for potential action, progress and further research.

### [Commission publishes 12 new reports on mental health and learning disability services](#)

The Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland has published 12 new reports following visits to mental health and learning disability services in Scotland. The reports highlight positive findings, areas for improvement, and recommendations for change where necessary.

## **Other Health and Social Care**

### [Plans for a Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance announced](#)

The Scottish Government has unveiled plans for a new benefit to provide continued support to around 66,000 adults with a disability or a long term health conditions. A new Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance would replace the Disability Living Allowance currently provided by the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP). The new benefit will only be available to those whose awards are transferred from the DWP and not open to new applicants.

### [New guidance for social care providers on recruiting from overseas](#)

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has published new guidance for adult social care providers to ethically and sustainably recruit care workers and senior care workers from overseas. The guidance provides a summary of the [international recruitment toolkit for social care providers](#) which has been developed by Skills for Care.

### [New NES Learning and Education Strategy 2023-2026 published](#)

NES (NHS Education for Scotland) has published its new Learning and Education Strategy 2023-2026. The new strategy sets out how NES will deliver education and training across the health and social care workforce and support colleagues working within NES to do so. It includes a number of priority themes such as developing new, future-focused learning pathways and enhancing learner-centred delivery.

### [Easy read terms of reference for the Independent Review of Adult Disability Payment](#)

An easy read version of the terms of reference for the Independent Review of Adult Disability Payment has been published by the Scottish Government. The easy read document outlines what the review will do and when.



## [LDT highlights recent research around learning disability and autism](#)

Learning Disability Today (LDT) has highlighted recent research around learning disability and autism, including studies on cancer screening for women with a learning disability, managing frailty, menstruation advice, and renting a house.

### **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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