

5-11 April 2024



bulletin



# Adult and Health



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## Feedback

The Care Inspectorate Policy Team produces weekly Adult & Health and Children & Young People bulletins and to continue to make improvements, we would welcome your feedback.

Thank you for taking the time to [complete this online survey](#). It should only take around 15 minutes to complete and your feedback will greatly assist us in the review process.

## Covid-19 - General

### [Spring Covid-19 vaccine programme](#)

Public Health Scotland (PHS) is urging everyone eligible for the spring Covid-19 vaccine to come forward when invited. Those eligible for a Covid-19 vaccination this spring are:

- All those aged 75 years and over on 30 June 2024 (i.e. born before 30 June 1949)
- Residents in care homes for older adults
- Individuals aged 6 months and over who have a weakened immune system (by or on 31 March 2024)



## Care Homes/Care at Home

### [CQC guidance on visiting in care homes, hospitals and hospices \(England\)](#)

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has issued final guidance on visiting in care homes, hospitals and hospices in England. The guidance aims to help providers to understand what they must do to meet the new fundamental standard on visiting and accompanying in care homes, hospitals, and hospice, and also sets out what people using health and social care and their families, friends and advocates should expect. The guidance notes that providers must support people who use their service to receive in-person visits from people they want to see, when they want to see them, unless there are exceptional circumstances preventing this. It also notes that providers should consider every individual decision as a separate case and should not apply blanket decisions or long-term restrictions.

## Infection Prevention and Control

### [New NES resource to help learners apply infection control precautions](#)

NES (NHS Education for Scotland) has launched a new resource to help learners and trainers across health and social care to access the right resources on the Infection Prevention and Control Turas Learn Zone. The new [SIPCEP Resources Quick Finder](#) will replace the NES ARHAI Resource Leaflet.

## Justice

### [Care Inspectorate publishes review of prison-based social work services](#)

The Care Inspectorate has published a thematic review of prison-based social work, highlighting a lack of clarity around the governance arrangements for prison-based social work services and the need for fundamental reform of the current arrangements. The review considered the direction of prison-based social work services within the context of the changing prison population, resource constraints, and competing demands. It notes the commitment of prison-based social work staff to protect the public and fulfil their statutory responsibilities as an important strength.

## Mental Health

### [Mental Health Scrutiny and Assurance Evidence Review](#)

The Scottish Government has published a national review of the scrutiny and assurance of mental health services in Scotland and their [response to the findings](#). The review examines the current scrutiny arrangements of mental health services in Scotland, identifies issues and good practice, and makes 15 recommendations to address shortcomings in the current system. Recommendations include implementing an overarching framework leading to a cohesive and coordinated approach to external scrutiny, review and improve how inspections/ visits are scheduled in order to minimise duplication, and improving public awareness of all scrutiny bodies.



## Older People

### [Consultation on new standards for care of older people living with frailty](#)

Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS) is developing new standards for the care of older people living with frailty and is now gathering feedback on the [draft standards](#). The new standards will apply in all settings where frail older people receive health and social care, and aim to ensure national consistency in the quality of care that people receive. The consultation will close on 18 June 2024 with the final standards due to be published in November 2024.

## Other Health and Social Care

### [Report on funding allocation to implement the Carers Act](#)

The Coalition of Carers in Scotland (COCIS) has published a report highlighting a lack of transparency around how funding to implement the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 has been allocated. The report provides an analysis of data received through Freedom of Information (FOI) requests to local authorities and suggests there is a shortfall in the amount awarded to Health and Social Care Partnerships (HSCPs) to implement the Act. COCIS has made a number of recommendations to improve transparency in reporting and monitoring including ring-fencing Carers Act funding and developing consistent budget headings for use by all local areas.

### [ALLIANCE publishes report to inform the next See Hear Strategy](#)

The Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (the ALLIANCE) has published a report to inform the Scottish Government's next See Hear Strategy. The report follows on from the ALLIANCE's consultation with ethnic minority people on behalf of the Scottish Government. It includes reflections and recommendations from the ALLIANCE for potential areas of action, including the need for public bodies to improve their inclusive communication practices.

### [COSLA 2024 awards open for applications](#)

The 2024 COSLA Excellence awards are now open for applications. COSLA has invited Scottish councils to submit their top projects and teams for the awards, and hopes that some of the finalists and winning projects will also take part in a campaign to help showcase how councils are adapting to changing needs. The five categories for this year's awards include service innovation and improvement, achieving better outcomes for the most vulnerable in partnership, tackling inequalities and improving health and wellbeing, strengthening communities and local democracy, and just transition to net zero.

### [Upcoming webinar exploring the future of health and social care](#)

The ALLIANCE is due to host a webinar next week with Professor Derek Feeley. The event will explore the key challenges and opportunities facing health and social care in Scotland and will take place on 17 April 2024. Those interested in attending can register [here](#).



## Workforce

### [Scottish Care survey reveals challenges in recruiting international staff](#)

The findings from a Scottish Care survey suggests care providers are facing significant challenges in recruiting and retaining internationally recruited staff. The findings show that just over 66% of Scottish Care members in the independent and third sector are currently recruiting staff from overseas and utilising the international recruitment pathway, however 68% of care providers have indicated that they were not considering recruiting internationally in the future. Scottish Care has noted that this may be due to recent developments around international recruitment rules and concerns around sustainability and financial viability.

### [New rules to cut migration now in force](#)

The Home Office has highlighted that new rules relating to overseas workers have now come into effect. This includes changes to the general salary threshold for a Skilled Worker visa which has now increased by 48%, from £26,200 to £38,700.

### [Health and Care Professions Council consultation on proposed fee increase](#)

The Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) has launched a consultation on proposals to increase the annual registration fee for the 15 health and care professions that it regulates. The HCPC is consulting on a proposed fee rise of £6.98 to the annual registration fee and equivalent increases in our other fees. The consultation will close on 14 June 2024.

**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.

It should also be noted that the Care Inspectorate has no liability in respect of the content of external websites which may be signposted on this site.