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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

[Inquiry publishes additional academic research](#)

The Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry has published further academic research relating to two portfolios of its investigation. The new reports cover the impact of the pandemic and the public sector response on refugees and asylum seekers, and the impact of the pandemic on children and young people. The inquiry has also provided a provisional [timetable](#) for its next health and social care impact hearings (taking place from 23 to 26 April).



## Disabilities

### [New disability payment for pensioners to be piloted in 5 local authorities](#)

The Scottish Government has announced that the new Pension Age Disability Payment, which replaces the Attendance Allowance, will be piloted in 5 Scottish local authorities. The pilot will begin from 21 October in Argyll & Bute, Highland, Aberdeen City, Orkney and Shetland, and will become available in 13 more local authority areas from March next year before it is made available across Scotland.

## Equalities

### [NHS Scotland's role as an 'anchor' in reducing inequalities](#)

Public Health Scotland (PHS) has published a paper outlining how NHS Scotland can help reduce inequalities by being an effective 'anchor' institution. The paper looks at the key opportunities that NHS Scotland has as an anchor, changes that senior decision-makers can make collectively to prevent inequalities, and potential barriers to becoming an effective anchor.

## Mental Health

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

11 new reports have been published by the Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland following visits to mental health and learning disability services and prisons in Scotland. The Commission's executive director (nursing), Claire Lamza, noted that the reports cover a variety of NHS services for people with mental ill health or learning disability and stated that "Even though the settings varied, one thing we found in common on every one of these visits were the positive comments about staff".

### [Final evaluation of pilot support service for families bereaved by suicide](#)

The Scottish Government has published a final evaluation report of the Suicide Bereavement Support Service (SBSS), a pilot service launched in August 2021 to support families bereaved by suicide. The service received 242 referrals over 25 months of delivery with the most common referrals to the service consisting of self-referral (30%), Police Scotland (26%), and health services (19%). The final evaluation report notes that feedback from those who have referred people to the service has been consistently positive, and outlines 5 recommendations, including an overarching recommendation that the SBSS be made available to anyone in Scotland who has experienced a bereavement by suicide.

### [Time Space Compassion practice stories](#)

A second collection of practice stories showing the principles and supporting practices of Time Space Compassion in suicide prevention has been published by the Scottish Government. The publication includes stories from Sam's Café Fife by Scottish Action for Mental Health (SAMH), Stepping out in East Lothian, Andy's Man



Club, the Suicide Bereavement Support Service, and Wee Minds Matter. The practice stories outline the challenges, approach, learning, and impact from each project.

## **Other Health and Social Care**

### [£9.2 million funding to support independent living](#)

The Scottish Government has announced funding of £9.2 million over the next three years to give people who access social care more choice and control over decisions relating to their care. The funding will be delivered through the national 'Support in the Right Direction' programme which aims to enable organisations to deliver independent support and advocacy to help people live independently and participate in all aspects of life. The funding is part of the Scottish Government's Self-Directed Support Improvement Plan, with 33 third sector organisations due to be funded through the programme.

### [Progress report on Scotland's Health and Social Care Data Strategy](#)

A progress update on the first year of Scotland's first health and social care data strategy has been published by the Scottish Government. The report highlights the steps taken to deliver on the strategy's visions and ambitions, including progressing work in developing an Integrated Social Care and Health Record which will prevent people having to retell their stories. It also notes progress in developing a Digital Front Door to allow people to digitally interact with their health and social care data, and work to improve the quality and consistency of protected characteristics data.

### [Duty of candour review \(England\)](#)

The Department of Health and Social Care has launched a call for evidence as part of its review of the statutory duty of candour for health and social care providers in England. The review was announced as part of the UK government's response to the Hillsborough disaster report, and looks to understand to what extent the duty of candour is honoured, monitored and enforced. The call for views will close on 29 May 2024.

### [People with lived experience invited to join National Healthcare Standards working group](#)

The Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (the ALLIANCE) has highlighted the opportunity to be part of a short-life working group to help develop a new set of National Healthcare Standards. The new standards, developed by Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS), will apply to everyone who receives assessments, treatment or support from healthcare professionals and will apply in all settings where people receive assessments, treatment or support from healthcare professionals. HIS are taking applications for those interested in becoming a member of the working group and those interested in becoming the Chairperson.



[New research project aims to raise awareness of the challenges faced by unpaid carers](#)

The ALLIANCE has highlighted Scotland Cares' research project into the lived experiences of unpaid carers. The project aims to promote the visibility of the vital role unpaid carers play. It consists of two parts, a survey of unpaid carers and engagement with story telling experts to bring to life the achievements, hopes and challenges of carers in an impactful way.

**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.