




Adult and Health



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Covid-19 - General

[Inquiry announces next health and social care impact hearings](#)

The Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry has released a provisional timetable for its next set of health and social care impact hearings (7-10 May). The hearings can be watched online with sessions usually starting at 9.45am.

Care Homes/Care at Home

[Care Home Census](#)

The Scottish Government has released a letter to care home managers to inform them of the arrangements for the 2024 Scottish Care Home Census. The 2024 Care Home Census will open on 6 May 2024 and close on 16 June 2024. This data will cover the year April 2023 to March 2024 (2023/24) only. The census form can be completed through the Care Inspectorate eForms system. The letter also notes that the findings from the review of the care home data landscape are due to be published later this month.



End of Life/Palliative Care

[Government responds to committee's report on assisted dying \(England\)](#)

The UK Government has responded to the Health and Social Care Committee's report on assisted dying/ assisted suicide. In its response, the government highlighted changes that have been introduced to improve the provision of palliative and end-of-life care in England, but acknowledged that there are disparities in access to hospice services, particularly for people living in rural or socio-economically deprived areas. The Chair of the Committee has [welcomed](#) the government's intention to work with devolved administrations and the Crown Dependencies to discuss the practical implications of any legislation introduced to allow assisted dying/assisted suicide.

Justice

[Care Inspectorate report on serious incident reviews in justice social work](#)

The report provides details around serious incidents notified by local authority justice social work services to the Care Inspectorate during the period 1 January 2022 to 31 March 2024. 133 serious incident notifications were received by the Care Inspectorate during this period and 126 of those notifications met the criteria for a serious incident review. The report notes improvements around the quality of notifications received during this reporting period and that reflective learning reviews were being used appropriately. It also notes that the revised guidance issued in 2022 has been well received.

Mental Health

[Advice on how families can be involved by mental health services](#)

The Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland has published an updated good practice guide on how families can be involved when their relative is being treated for mental ill health and other conditions. The guide is aimed at family members, carers, and friends of people receiving care, and professionals involved in their care. The first section of the guide is aimed at helping family members and carers understand consent, capacity, and confidentiality, and the second section is focused on confidentiality considerations for professionals.

Other Health and Social Care

[Joint inspection of adult support and protection in Highland](#)

A joint inspection of adult support and protection in Highland found clear strengths in ensuring adults at risk of harm are safe, protected and supported. Inspectors found that initial inquiries were carried out in line with legislative principles and supported by good communication and information sharing. All investigations were conducted by a council officer. They were of a good quality and supported by comprehensive risk assessments and protection plans. The partnership was transitioning toward the new codes of practice. The joint inspection report also identifies areas for further



improvement, noting that the partnership should continue the work it was undertaking to improve the quality and consistency of chronologies.

[Human Rights Commission is seeking feedback on its draft BSL Plan 2024-2030](#)

The Scottish Human Rights Commission is consulting on its draft British Sign Language (BSL) Plan for 2024-2030. The draft plan is available in BSL and in English. It sets out how the Commission will promote the use of BSL in its work and outlines a number of short, medium, and long term actions. Actions include creating a dedicated BSL page on the Commission's website and establishing a BSL taskforce which will be responsible for progressing actions set out in the BSL plan.

[Report recommends improving accessible information on SDS](#)

The Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (the ALLIANCE) has published a report on people's experiences of accessible information around Self-directed Support (SDS) and social care. It highlights widespread agreement that SDS is not publicised enough for people who are Deaf, Deafblind, or who have Visual Impairments, and that there is a need to improve accessible information within social care.

[New SSSC Codes of Practice now in effect](#)

The revised SSSC Codes of Practice for Social Service Workers and Employers (the Codes) came into effect 1 May 2024. The revised Codes include updated wording which aim to take a more empowering tone and clearer links to the Health and Social Care Standards. The revised Codes are available to read on the SSSC website and you can also see what has changed from the 2016 version [here](#).

[Consultation analysis on proposals to increase Healthcare Improvement Scotland fees](#)

The Scottish Government has published an analysis of responses from its consultation on proposals to increase the maximum fees that Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS) may charge. The report notes that 46% of respondents agreed that the regulation of independent healthcare services should continue to be funded through fees charged by HIS to private providers and 53% did not. It also notes that 83% of respondents did not agree with the proposed maximum fees that HIS can charge for the commencement of the regulation of independent medical agencies.

[Consultation on proposed changes to regulations relating to CQC \(England\)](#)

The Department of Health and Social Care has launched a consultation on proposals to amend regulations relating to the Care Quality Commission (CQC). Proposed amendments include removing the expiry date of the Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) Regulations 2014 and inserting a review clause so that reviews will take place every 5 years. Other proposed changes include introducing a new requirement to notify the CQC on the use of restrictive practices within 72 hours (so far as reasonably practicable). The new reporting requirement would apply to all



patients being assessed or treated for a mental health disorder in a mental health unit, and not only to those with a learning disability and autism. The consultation will close on 21 June 2024

Other

[First Minister to stand down](#)

First Minister Humza Yousaf has announced his intentions to resign as SNP Party Leader. He will continue as First Minister until a successor has been elected.

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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