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bulletin



Adult and Health



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Covid-19 - General

[Update from Scottish Covid Inquiry Chief Executive](#)

The Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry's Chief Executive has issued an update for May 2024, looking ahead to future sessions, including a two-day session on 27 and 28 June for organisations wishing to give a closing oral statement on health and social care.

[Timetable for next Health and Social Care Impact Hearings \(14–17 May\)](#)

The Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry has announced the provisional timetable for the Inquiry's Health and Social Care Impact Hearings (14–17 May).



Alcohol and Drugs

[Evaluation framework for National Mission on Drug Deaths](#)

Public Health Scotland has published an evaluation framework for the PHS evaluation of the Scottish Government's National Mission on Drug Deaths, setting out the main evaluation questions and explains how they will approach the evaluation. The first section summarises the aims of the National Mission, its scope and the pre-existing monitoring and oversight arrangements relating to the National Mission, and the second section presents the framework for the PHS evaluation, including the key evaluation questions.

[RADAR alert issued on new synthetic drug xylazine](#)

Public Health Scotland is publicising that the Rapid Action Drug Alerts and Response (RADAR) has issued an alert for Xylazine, which is a non-opioid tranquiliser used in veterinary medicine as a sedative, muscle relaxant and painkiller. The alert highlights that the new drug has been detected in the wider drug supply, including in counterfeit opioid painkillers (codeine and tramadol) and in liquids sold as THC (a psychoactive component of cannabis) vapes, and that xylazine has largely been identified in overdoses alongside other substances including heroin, therefore it's important that people who are likely to witness an overdose carry naloxone.

Alzheimer's/Dementia

[Plans for second dementia resource centre](#)

Alzheimer Scotland has confirmed their plans with The Forget-Me-Not Trust for a second dedicated Outdoor Brain Health and Dementia Resource Centre. The centre aims to deliver a programme of therapeutic and creative activities that promote independence, social interaction and provide inspiration for people to try something new. Sessions such as gardening and horticulture, mindfulness and reminiscence, cognitive stimulation therapy, outdoor relaxation, and an outdoor dementia café will also be planned.

Infection Prevention and Control

[Joint action plan to control resistance to antibiotics](#)

The Scottish Government has confirmed their support for a UK-wide joint action plan to contain and control resistance to antibiotics. The AMR National Action Plan sets out key measures to reduce the threat of infection across human, animal, environment and food sectors, which include: optimising the use of antibiotics, investing in innovation and technology and working collaboratively with key global partners. Through a collaborative approach across the UK, the action plan builds on the achievements and lessons learned from the first version of the plan and will run from 2024 until 2029.



Mental Health

[Joint inspection report on services for adults in Inverclyde](#)

The Care Inspectorate and Healthcare Improvement Scotland have published a joint inspection of adult services in the Inverclyde Health and Social Care Partnership area, which considered the outcomes and experiences of adults living with mental illness. Inspectors found that most people living with mental illness in Inverclyde had positive experiences of health and social care services that contributed to good outcomes for their health, wellbeing and quality of life. However, inspectors also found that the partnership needed to agree and implement an approach to identifying and addressing improvements in mental health services, and strengthen its oversight and governance of social work practice, with particular reference to the statutory functions of mental health officers.

Other Health and Social Care

[Post-Legislative Scrutiny of Social Care \(Self-Directed Support\)\(Scotland\) Act 2013](#)

The Scottish Parliament's Health, Social Care and Sport Committee has published a report on post-legislative scrutiny of the Social Care (Self-directed Support) (Scotland) Act 2013. This report covers phase 1 of the Committee's inquiry where the Committee gathered information from the public, professionals and the Scottish Government about how SDS is currently working in Scotland. An overarching theme is that SDS is a good idea that has largely failed due to poor implementation.

[Report on consideration of regulations to amend register](#)

The Scottish Parliament's Health, Social Care and Sport Committee has published a report on its consideration of the Registration of Social Workers and Social Service Workers in Care Services (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2024. The purpose of the instrument is to amend the Registration of Social Workers and Social Service Workers in Care Services (Scotland) Regulations 2013 to reduce the period of time for workers to apply for registration with the Scottish Social Services Council, with the requirement now being within three months of starting a new role.

[Update to national Digital Health and Care Strategy's Delivery Plan](#)

The Scottish Government has published an update for 2024-25 to the national Digital Health and Care Strategy's Delivery Plan which describes activities supporting Health Boards, HSCPs, local authorities, primary care, social care, social work, and care providers to offer new or improved services.

[New First Minister and Cabinet confirmed](#)

John Swinney is the new First Minister of Scotland following the resignation of Humza Yousaf last week. Kate Forbes was announced as the new Deputy First Minister. The majority of Cabinet Secretary and Ministerial posts remain the same, including:

- Cabinet Secretary for NHS Recovery, Health and Social Care – Neil Gray

- Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills – Jenny Gilruth
- Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs – Angela Constance
- Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice – Shirley-Anne Somerville
- Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government – Shona Robison
- Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise - Natalie Don
- Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport - Maree Todd

[Proposed changes to National Outcomes for Scotland](#)

The Scottish Government has published its proposed changes to the National Outcomes for Scotland, which have been laid before the Scottish Parliament for its consideration. The proposed changes follow a process of review and consultation that has been undertaken in accordance with Part 1 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. Proposed changes include a new National Outcome on Care, as well as new National Outcomes on Children and Young People, Education and Learning and Equality and Human Rights.

[SSSC Codes of Practice launched by Children’s Minister](#)

The revised SSSC Codes of Practice for Social Service Workers and Employers were officially launched by Minister for Children, Young People and Keeping the Promise, Natalie Don, this week. Meeting staff and children at the Smilechildcare Under 3s service in Edinburgh, the Minister said the updated Codes set out clearly the standards of practice and behaviour expected of everyone working in social services in Scotland.

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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