




Adult and Health



[Covid-19 - General](#)

[Care Homes/Care at Home](#)

[Equalities](#)

[Justice](#)

[Mental Health](#)

[Other Health & Social Care](#)

[Workforce](#)

Covid-19 - General

[Scottish Covid Inquiry to return in June](#)

The Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry has confirmed that it will return to its premises in June to hold closing statement for the Health and Social Care Impact Hearings. Hearings will then be suspended until mid-September.

[Supplementary academic research reports published](#)

The Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry has published further academic research relating to two investigative portfolios: financial and welfare support to businesses and individuals and the provision of health and social care services. These reports update the Inquiry's introductory academic research, which was published in June 2022 and covered the period up to April 2022, and extend the scope of that research to cover the entire period the Inquiry is investigating, up to 31 December 2022, as well as some additional areas specified by the investigations team.



Care Homes/Care at Home

[Review of national data landscape relating to care homes for adults](#)

The Scottish Government has published the 'Care Home Data Review Summary Report', a multi-agency (Scottish Government, Public Health Scotland, and Care Inspectorate) review of the national data landscape relating to care homes for adults. The review aims to ensure a coherent suite of data collections, reduce the burden on data providers and meet the existing and emerging needs of data users. The recommendations include the setting up of data provider/user networks and increasing the transparency of data collections, and potentially establishing a core minimum dataset for care home data. For the next phase of the review, the Scottish Government are currently setting up a Care Home Data Working Group to be responsible for prioritising the recommendations from the review and developing a multi-agency action plan and timetable for implementation.

Equalities

[Report supporting the contribution of people with lived experience to IJBs](#)

The Coalition of Carers in Scotland and The Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (the ALLIANCE) have published the report 'More than Equal, Valuing and supporting the expert contribution of people with lived experience', which looks at the experiences of carer and lived experienced representatives included in Integration Joint Boards (IJB). Recommendations are under four thematic headings: strengthening recruitment and representation, capacity building, supporting equity of involvement, and evaluating the impact of their involvement.

Justice

[Call for reduction in prisoner numbers](#)

The BBC reports on correspondence from the HM Chief Inspector of Prisons to the Scottish Government calling for reduction in prisoner numbers. Reportedly, the letter states that the prison service did not have either the buildings or the resources necessary to offer all prisoners a humane rehabilitation regime, and calls for action to stop the current upward surge of prisoners and reduce the numbers of people being sent to prison in the long term.

Mental Health

[Funding for football focused mental wellbeing programme](#)

The Scottish Government has announced funding for 'The Changing Room – Extra Time' programme which uses football to promote mental health and wellbeing. This programme aims to give people the chance to speak in more depth about their mental wellbeing and explore areas which are giving them particular challenges or concerns.



Other Health and Social Care

[Annual statistics for public services complaints](#)

The Scottish Public Services Ombudsman (SPSO) has published annual statistics for 2023-24 for public services complaints. They received a total of 4,686 complaints, with nearly two thirds about the health sector and local authorities. Following investigation, the SPSO made 496 recommendations to public sector bodies, with over half of these (271) for learning and improvement to ensure the issue complained about doesn't happen again, and a further 66 of recommendations made for complaints handling improvements.

[Progress on Social Security \(Amendment\)\(Scotland\) Bill](#)

The Scottish Parliament's Social Justice and Social Security Committee has published a Stage 1 report on the progress of the Social Security (Amendment)(Scotland) Bill. The Bill aims to enhance the Scottish system of social security in line with the principles laid out in the Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018 Act. Overall, the Committee considers that the amendment of the Social Security (Scotland) 2018 has been undertaken in a way that takes account of the ethos of the 2018 Act, while amending it to take account of developments in the Scottish social security system. Many of the points raised with the Committee demonstrate how changes to the system that initially at times appear to be a straightforward could have unintended consequences to those the system is there to serve, but the Committee recommends that the general principles of the Bill be agreed to.

[Challenges for local government budgets](#)

Audit Scotland has published an overview of local government budgets for 2024/25, outlining the challenges and funding gaps, and the decisions councils will have to make on how they can deliver services and what services can continue. Councils have had to make difficult budget setting decisions for 2024/25, and most worked with their communities to inform or consult on the challenges faced, and some councils changed proposed savings measures in response to public opposition.

[Nominations for Self Management Awards are open](#)

The Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (the ALLIANCE) are publicising that nominations for their Self Management Awards are now open. The awards aim to celebrate examples of good practice and promote a range of innovative self management work that exists all over Scotland. The categories are Self Management in the Community, Self Management Resource, Self Management Digital Innovator, Self Management Champion, Empowering Self Management Project, Sensory Loss: Positive Self Management, and Self Management through the Arts.



Workforce

[Annual report on nursing workforce in Scotland](#)

The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) has published their annual report on the nursing workforce in Scotland. Reportedly, the workforce 'crisis' does not show signs of improvement, due to underinvestment, lack of workforce planning, poor population health, increasing clinical need and continuing impact of the pandemic.

[Analysis of impact of an increase in the minimum wage for adult social care workers](#)

The Scottish Government has published an analysis by the University of Kent which analyses the impact, on recruitment and retention, of an increase in the minimum wage for Adult Social Care (ASC) workers from £10.90 to £12.00 per hour in Scotland. This study is a first attempt to provide estimates of wages elasticities of labour supply to the ASC sector in Scotland and use them to predict the impact of a sector wage floor increase on employment. Initial findings suggest that an increase in wages is likely to have a positive effect on employment, but the analysis assumes that wages in other sectors remain unchanged.

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.