




Adult and Health



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Covid-19 - General

[Inquiry launches next phase of engagement](#)

The Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry has announced the next phase of its listening project, Focused Engagement. This phase will take a more targeted approach into some of the areas that the inquiry is investigating and will include working with organisations to hear more about specific themes from particular groups including: children and young people, businesses, welfare recipients, some health and social care users, minority ethnic and religious groups, rural and island communities, and those experiencing digital exclusion.

[Inquiry accepting requests to attend closing statements](#)

The Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry is now accepting requests to attend closing statements for its health and social care impact hearings on 27 and 28 June. The inquiry will provide more information about core participants providing closing statements on 17 June. Requests to attend must be submitted by 5pm on 24 June.



Alzheimer's/Dementia

[Active Voice annual report 2023](#)

The Scottish Dementia Working Group (SDWG) and the National Dementia Carers Action Network (NDCAN) have published their annual report for 2023. The report sets out Alzheimer Scotland's local and national Active Voice work over the last year and the work of the SDWG and the NDCAN. The report highlights campaigning and awareness raising work, and how members have been involved in influencing policy.

Care Homes/Care at Home

[Care Home Open Week 2024](#)

Scottish Care has highlighted this year's Care Home Open Week will take place from 24-30 June 2024. The event is organised by Championing Social Care and aims to highlight the vital role care homes play in providing a safe, supportive, and engaging environment for some of the most vulnerable members of society. As part of the open week, care homes across the UK will open their doors to the public and offer a variety of activities including meeting staff and residents.

End of Life/Palliative Care

[Call for evidence on Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults \(Scotland\) Bill](#)

The Health, Social Care and Sport Committee has launched a call for evidence on the Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill. The purpose of the Bill is to introduce a lawful form of assisted dying for people over the age of 16 with a terminal illness. The Committee is seeking views around the reasons people have for either supporting or opposing the Bill, and to get an understanding of how people would like to see the Bill amended. There is a short survey available for those who would like to share general views about the Bill as a whole and a detailed call for evidence for people, groups, bodies or organisations who wish to comment on specific aspects of the Bill. The Finance and Public Administration Committee has also launched a [call for evidence](#) on the estimated financial implications of the Bill as set out in its accompanying Financial Memorandum (FM). Both consultations will close on 16 August 2024.

[Share your views of living with or caring for someone with advanced illness](#)

The ALLIANCE has highlighted a new research study exploring the lived experiences of people living with advanced illness (including the last year of life) and family carers who are experiencing financial insecurity, particularly in rural, coastal and island communities. The study is funded by Marie Curie and is being undertaken by researchers at the University of Glasgow. Researchers are now looking for people to take part in the project which will include a one-off interview. Interviews are open to adults over the age of 18, and participants will receive a £25 high street voucher for their time.



Justice

[Scottish prison population projections for six month period from May to October 2024](#)

Scottish Government has published the latest prison population projections modelling covering the six month period from May to October 2024. It suggests that the average daily prison population could be between 7,650 and 9,150 in October 2024, indicating that it is likely the overall prison population will increase between May to October 2024. Modelling also indicates that it is likely that the remand population will decrease between this period.

[2022/23 audit of the Scottish Prison Service](#)

The Public Audit Committee has published a report on the 2022/23 Audit of the Scottish Prison Service. The Committee considered issues relating to the delivery of the Scottish Courts Custody Prisoner Escorting Services (SCCPES) contract and the impact on the human rights of prisoners, the impact of increasing prisoner numbers, and the condition of the prison estate. The Committee's report highlights evidence showing that a combination of factors including staffing issues, an increasing prison population with more complex health needs and an increased court capacity aimed at addressing court backlogs all contributed to failures within the SCCPES contract. The Committee has welcomed steps already taken to support the delivery of the contract and mitigate the risk of contract failure, and has also recommended that the Scottish Government and the Scottish Prison Service conducts a "lessons learned" review to inform any future contract.

[Prisoner early release plan approved by Scottish Parliament](#)

The Scottish Parliament has approved the early release of some short-term prisoners to address the impacts of a recent rise in the prison population. Around 514 eligible prisoners will be released in four tranches from 26 June, with all releases due to be completed by 25 July. Certain categories of prisoners are automatically excluded and not eligible for early release under the plans, and prison governors will have the power to veto the release of any otherwise eligible prisoner, if they deem them an immediate risk to a specific individual or group.

Mental Health

[ALLIANCE launches new Digital Links Project in Glasgow](#)

The Health and Social Care Alliance (the ALLIANCE) has announced the launch of a new year-long Digital Links Project in Glasgow. The project, a partnership between the ALLIANCE's Glasgow Community Links Workers Programme and the Digital Hub, will take referrals of people living in Glasgow who have poor mental health or wellbeing and who are experiencing digital exclusion. The project aims to support individuals to become more skilled and confident in accessing digital health and social care support.



Older People

[£3.6 million announced for Hospital at Home for Older People](#)

The Scottish Government has announced £3.6 million in funding for Hospital at Home for Older People for 2024/25, bringing the total funding allocation for the initiative to over £15 million since 2020. The service enables people to receive acute support treatments that would otherwise require them to be admitted to hospital. Recent Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS) statistics show that the service has exceeded targets in several key areas between April 2023 and March 2024, including an increase of over 57% of total bed numbers, ahead of the Scottish Government's 50% target.

Other Health and Social Care

[Common Weal sets out its proposed amendments to the NCS Bill](#)

Common Weal has written to the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee with a proposed set of amendments to the National Care Service (Scotland) Bill, setting out text that Common Weal believe should be removed from the Bill and presenting text to be substituted. The proposal also includes a policy rationale and an explanation of the proposed changes. The changes proposed by Common Weal include setting out the purpose of the NCS at the start of the Bill, and NCS principles to include collecting and collating information and data on unmet needs, that care should not be for profit, and that care should be free at the point of use.

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

A joint inspection of adult support and protection in Midlothian found clear strengths in ensuring adults at risk of harm are safe, protected and supported. However, inspectors also identified areas which could further improve. Inspectors noted that the partnership had a clear vision for adult support and protection that was widely communicated and well understood, and that adult support and protection inquiries undertaken by social work complied with the refreshed national code of practice. Managerial oversight of council officer activity was commendably strong. It was well recorded and linked to supervision discussions.

[RCN warns financial crisis in universities a threat to nursing courses](#)

The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) has highlighted concerns raised by nursing education staff over university course closures and how this could impact the nurse recruitment challenge. RCN reports that the results of a UK wide survey of nurse lecturers and other staff has revealed risk to jobs, including redundancies and recruitment freezes. RCN Scotland has called on the Scottish Government to ensure the sustainability of the nursing academic workforce and to develop a workforce plan for nursing academics.



[RCN report highlights the impact of providing care in inappropriate settings](#)

The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) has published a report on the impact on patients and staff of providing care in corridors and other inappropriate areas. The report suggests that more than 1 in 3 (37%) nursing staff working in typical hospital settings delivered care in inappropriate settings, such as corridors, on their last shift. The RCN has declared this a 'national emergency' and is calling for mandatory national reporting of patients being cared for in corridors. The RCN is also asking members to raise concerns when care is being delivered in inappropriate settings.

[Digital Health and Care Leadership Programme Cohort 24 now open for applications](#)

The application process for Cohort 24 of the Digital Health and Care Leadership Programme (DLP) starting in August 2024 is now open. The programme is designed for anyone who would like to develop their leadership skills and is interested in digital health and care. Places on the programme are fully funded by the Scottish Government and there is no cost to the applicant or organisation. NES is welcoming applications from employees in NHS Scotland, social care, social work, housing, charities and the third sector. The deadline for applications is 1 July 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.

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