




Adult and Health



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Covid-19 - General

[PHS returns to weekly updates of viral respiratory diseases](#)

Public Health Scotland (PHS) has reinstated weekly reporting of respiratory infections due to an increase in Covid-19 cases in Scotland. PHS notes that although Covid-19 hospital admissions have increased by 36.4%, the rate remains below the most recent peaks observed in spring and winter 2023.

Alzheimer's/Dementia

[New Alzheimer's drug approved in the US](#)

The Alzheimer's Society has responded to news that the FDA has approved a new drug for treating Alzheimer's in the US. The charity has noted that there are still a number of hurdles before the drug, Donanemab, could be available on the NHS and is calling on the NHS to publish plans for how they intend to improve early diagnosis and deliver new treatments to the people who need them.



[Caring for LGBTQ+ individuals who are living with dementia](#)

The Dementia Services Development Centre (DSDC) has published a blog on key considerations to make when providing care for LGBTQ+ individuals living with dementia. It highlights challenges around social isolation, healthcare discrimination and legal and financial planning that people from the LGBTQ+ community who are living with dementia may face.

End of Life/Palliative Care

[Hospice UK surveys on end of life and palliative care in rural communities](#)

The Health and Social Care Alliance (the ALLIANCE) has highlighted work being undertaken by Hospice UK to address inequity at the end of life. Hospice UK is looking to gain a better understanding of what is important to people living in rural communities at the end of life, explore the challenges and opportunities in delivering palliative care in rural areas, share learning and case studies, and make policy recommendations to improve support for people in rural communities across the four nations. There are 2 online surveys available to share your views, one is aimed at staff and volunteers providing care and support and the other is open to people living in remote, rural and island communities to share their lived experience. The surveys are open until 31 July 2024.

Mental Health

[Scottish Mental Health Nursing Review monthly update](#)

The Scottish Government has published the June 2024 monthly update on the work of the [Scottish Mental Health Nursing Review](#). The most recent update outlines some of the recent activities undertaken by the Review, including creating a web-based option to enable Mental Health nurses to engage with the National Mental Health Nursing Conversation on an individual or group basis, and in all settings. The update also provides an overview of the Review's next steps.

Other Health and Social Care

[Call for views on draft amendments to National Care Service Bill](#)

The Health, Social Care and Sport Committee is gathering views on the Scottish Government's stage 2 amendments to the National Care Service (Scotland) Bill. The main changes to the Bill will focus on the creation of the National Care Service Board (and its proposed functions) and greater consistency of local planning and delivery of reformed integration authorities. The consultation will close on 30 August 2024. The Scottish Parliament Information Centre has published a [blog](#) providing an overview of the latest developments around the Bill.



[ALLIANCE members report difficulties in retaining and recruiting staff in third sector](#)

The ALLIANCE has published an analysis of responses to its monthly member survey exploring difficulties in retaining and recruiting staff in the third sector. The findings from ALLIANCE's June member survey show that over 60% of respondents said they had difficulties in both retaining and recruiting staff. Challenges identified by the survey include competition with the public sector pay and conditions, and short-term and unstable funding arrangements.

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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