


Adult and
Health[Covid-19 - General](#)[Carers](#)[Equalities](#)[Mental Health](#)[Older People](#)[Other Health & Social Care](#)[Other](#)[Workforce](#)**Covid-19 - General**[UK Covid-19 Inquiry publishes its first report](#)

The UK Covid-19 Inquiry has published its first report and recommendations following its investigation into the UK's resilience and preparedness for the pandemic (module 1). The inquiry's module 1 report concludes that "the processes, planning and policy of the civil contingency structures within the UK government and devolved administrations and civil services failed their citizens" and recommends fundamental reforms of how the UK government and devolved administrations in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales prepare for whole-system civil emergencies. A [brief of summary](#) of the report is also available.



Carers

[Poverty and unpaid carers](#)

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation, using data from the Understanding Society survey, has published a report on the dynamics of poverty among unpaid carers between 2011 and 2012, and 2019 and 2020. Amongst other findings, reportedly unpaid carers transition into poverty at a higher rates than adults overall and exit poverty at a lower rate once there, events that push unpaid carers into poverty include labour-market events like moving out of paid work or experiencing a reduction in household earnings, and among social unpaid carers falls in income from benefits like Universal Credit account for the majority of poverty entries.

Equalities

[Resources to improve the collection of equalities data](#)

Public Health Scotland, collaborating with University of Strathclyde and Homeless Network Scotland, has produced a suite of information resources which aim to improve the collection of equalities data. Following engagement with people with protected characteristics and third-sector organisations, and an online survey of NHS Scotland staff with a duty to ask for equality data from patients as part of their usual healthcare role, the resources produced are reports, leaflets and a new learning hub to improve equalities data collection through awareness raising and training.

Mental Health

[Reports on visits to mental health and learning disability services and a prison](#)

The Mental Welfare Commission (MWC) has published 13 new reports following visits to mental health and learning disability services and a prison in Scotland. The reports highlight positive findings, aspects of care and treatment where they think the service could do better, and making recommendations for change where necessary. Examples reportedly found in the reports include staff providing good leadership, and creating healthy, supportive environments, even with the ongoing pressures services face, and when the MWC met with cohesive teams, they found the impact on the care they delivered was notably individualised and person-centred.

Older People

[Invitation letters for respiratory vaccination programme](#)

Public Health Scotland (PHS) are reporting that older adults should be receiving invitation letters for Scotland's Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) vaccination programme. Following advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI), PHS has been working with the Scottish Government and NHS boards to develop plans for the roll out of Scotland's RSV vaccination programme to protect newborns, infants and older adults. Appointments will start during August 2024. Those turning 75 years old on and between 1 August 2024 and 31 July 2025 will be the first to receive invitations. The vaccine will also be offered to anyone who



is aged 75 to 79 years old on 1 August 2024 as part of 'catch up' programme, as the RSV vaccine is new to Scotland and this group could not be given the vaccine before now.

Other Health and Social Care

[Confirmation of new Chief Executive for SSSC](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has confirmed the appointment of Maree Allison as its new Chief Executive. Ms Allison was appointed Interim Chief Executive in the spring, following Lorraine Gray's retirement.

[Programme on leading digital transformation in health and care opens to applications](#)

Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (the ALLIANCE) are publicising that applications are open for people working in the NHS, Health and Social Care Partnerships, Local Authorities, Social Care, Social Work, Care Providers, Housing, Charities and the Third Sector to the Digital Skills and Leadership Programme for a one year postgraduate qualification on driving, delivering and embedding digital transformation across health, social care, social work and housing services.

[Survey of Directors of Adult Social Services](#)

The Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (Adass) has published their Spring Survey 2024, with key findings including that the challenging financial situation and increasing complexity of need has led to Directors losing confidence in delivering their legal duties. Adass suggests that investing in people, engagement with people who work in social care and access care and support, and co-production should be a focus for the UK Government's approach to adult social care.

Other

[Role of Chief Financial Officer in local government](#)

The Accounts Commission (Audit Scotland) has published a blog by the Chair Jo Armstrong on the role of a Chief Financial Officer in local government during a challenging time for budgets and public services. From their reporting, the Accounts Commission know that councils need to have innovative thinking about the workforce and the management of recruitment pressures and skills gaps will be part of the focus of the Best Value thematic work in the 2023/24 annual audit.

[Potential implications of the King's Speech for Scotland](#)

The Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe) has prepared an overview of the King's Speech and focuses on its potential implications for Scotland. Out of the 40 Bills outlined, SPICe considers that 24 may apply to Scotland, either because the proposed legislation relates to a reserved matter or the territorial extent of some provisions of a Bill will extend to Scotland.



Workforce

[Improving recruitment processes](#)

A study exploring the use of language and narrative in recruitment processes within the not-for-profit social care and support sector which aims to improve recruitment process outcomes, reportedly finds that the choice of language in job descriptions and recruitment materials is crucial in attracting qualified social care professionals, the Coalition of Care and Support Providers in Scotland (CCPS) reports. The report, 'Language, Narrative & Stories in Scottish Not-For-Profit Social Care Recruitment', aims to inform and inspire social care organisations to adopt language that resonates with prospective staff, fosters inclusivity, and reflects sector values, and recommends that organisations should involve members in identifying effective career promotion campaigns and gathering feedback from care and support staff, develop resources such as case studies or "day in the life" series to showcase role variety and expectations, and highlight the importance of social care for wider society to combat misconceptions and illustrate its value.

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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