


Adult
and
Health[Covid-19 - General](#)[Alzheimer's/Dementia](#)[Care Homes/Care at Home](#)[Older People](#)[Other Health & Social Care](#)**Covid-19 - General**[Inquiry to begin next set of hearings in November 2024](#)

The Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry has provided an update on the next stage of its investigation into the handling of the pandemic in Scotland. The inquiry is now focusing on the impacts of the pandemic on education and certification with the next set of hearings due to begin on 4 November 2024. This will be followed by the impact on business and welfare, and the impact of the public sector response, including in the justice and policing sector. Following its examination into the impacts of the pandemic in Scotland, the inquiry will then move to assessing the implementation of policies and the strategic decision-making that underpinned them. Core participants who wish to appear at the inquiry's education and certification impact hearings are now being invited to [apply for leave to appear](#).



Alzheimer's/Dementia

[Two new risk factors for dementia identified by the Lancet Commission study](#)

Alzheimer's Society has highlighted findings from the 2024 update of the Lancet Commission on dementia prevention, intervention, and care which suggests that untreated vision loss and high LDL cholesterol are risk factors for dementia. The charity has also noted findings from the update which suggest that that nearly half of cases of dementia worldwide may be attributed to such risk factors.

Care Homes/Care at Home

[Tickets now available for the 2024 Care Home Conference](#)

Scottish Care has announced tickets for the Care Home Conference 2024 are now officially on sale. The event will take place on Friday 15 November 2024 in Glasgow and will include interactive workshops and keynote speakers from the care home sector. The conference will focus on key issues and developments within the industry, providing a platform for sharing knowledge, best practices, and innovative solution.

Older People

[Charity calls on UK Government to reconsider plans for winter fuel payment](#)

Age Scotland has raised concerns that the recently announced decision to means test the winter fuel payment will push tens of thousands of low income pensioners in Scotland further into poverty. Age Scotland is urging the UK government to reconsider its decision as it will affect older people who are already struggling with the high cost of living. Age UK has [launched a campaign](#) to save the winter fuel payment.

Other Health and Social Care

[Review into the operational effectiveness of the Care Quality Commission \(England\)](#)

The independent review of the Care Quality Commission (CQC) has found significant failings in the internal workings of the CQC. The interim report provides a summary of the review's emerging findings around 5 topics, including poor operational performance and the loss of credibility within the health and care sectors due to the loss of sector expertise and wider restructuring. The review also found that CQC inspection levels are still below pre-Covid levels and that social care providers are waiting too long for their registration and rating to be updated. The Department of Health and Social Care issued a [press release](#) setting out immediate steps to be taken to address the effectiveness of the CQC, including increasing the level of government oversight of the CQC. The full report by the independent review is due to be published in autumn this year.



[New research on defining, gathering evidence on and improving social care](#)

The Scottish Government has published findings from a research project which aimed to explore how evidence-informed understandings of 'good' social care are embedded into the design, implementation and continued improvement of the National Care Service. The data gathered by the research project was used to create the "3Rs" model which identifies three core characteristics that define 'good' social care: respectful, responsive, and relational. A [video summary](#) of the research project is also available.

[Updated safeguarding guidance for health and social care staff](#)

The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) has updated guidance for health and social care staff to help them identify the competencies they need to support individuals to receive personalised and culturally sensitive safeguarding. The guidance suggests the minimum standards and competencies that are needed to support adult safeguarding, and includes a framework which sets out the minimum training and education requirements for staff working with adults at risk of abuse.

[SSSC launches social care specific guidance on Health and Care Staffing Act](#)

The Scottish Social Service Council (SSSC), working with the Care Inspectorate, NHS Education for Scotland, Health Improvement Scotland and social care employers, have developed social care specific guidance on the Health and Care (Staffing) (Scotland) Act 2019. The guidance provides an overview of the Act, who it applies to, the guiding principles, and the duty to ensure appropriate staffing and training. It also includes links to other useful resources.

[Warning about bogus callers and the Care Inspectorate](#)

We are warning about bogus callers, as occasionally we receive reports of bogus callers, calling or visiting services and claiming to be inspectors from the Care Inspectorate. When our inspectors call a service, or arrive at a service for an unannounced inspection, you can be sure they are who they say they are by carrying out some simple identity checks. Every one of our inspectors carries an ID card with their photograph and job title on the front. If they are in person, you should always ask to see this and check the details. Our inspectors also carry official letters of authorisation. You can also call us on 0345 600 9527 to verify their identity. Our inspectors would never come to the home address of a service user who does not live in a care home without prior arrangements being made with them. If you believe you have been called or visited by a bogus inspector, you should contact the police straight away.

**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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