

2-8 August 2024



bulletin


Adult
and
Health[Covid-19 - General](#)[Alcohol and Drugs](#)[Justice](#)[Mental Health](#)[Older People](#)[Other Health & Social Care](#)[Workforce](#)**Covid-19 - General**[Autumn vaccination rollout](#)

Public Health Scotland has highlighted the publication of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) advice to UK governments on the forthcoming Covid-19 vaccination programme. The JCVI advises that the vaccine should be offered to: adults aged 65 years and over; residents in a care home for older adults and; persons aged 6 months to 64 years in a clinical risk group. The Scottish Government and Public Health Scotland are finalising plans for the roll out of Scotland's winter vaccination programme, and details of how and when eligible people will receive their vaccine will be announced in due course.



Alcohol and Drugs

[Capacity report on recovery housing facilities for drug and alcohol use](#)

The Scottish Government has published findings from a mapping and capacity survey of recovery housing facilities for drug and alcohol use in Scotland. The findings from the survey shows a total 12 providers offering some form of recovery housing in Scotland, with a combined maximum capacity of 235 places at 84% full capacity at the time of the survey. Most providers are third sector organisations with referrals to the facilities most often coming from residential rehabilitation providers and drug and alcohol services.

Justice

[New research explores the effect of Scotland's justice system on public health](#)

The University of Strathclyde is leading on a £1 million research project which will explore the impact of Scotland's justice system on public health. The study aims to improve the health of disadvantaged communities and will examine how health, crime, criminalisation and victimisation intersect. The research project is funded by the Scottish Government's Chief Scientist Office and will involve researchers from the University of Strathclyde, the University of Glasgow and Edinburgh Napier University as well as a wide range of public and community-based organisations.

[Scotland's chief inspector of prisons calls for action to ease pressure on prisons](#)

The BBC has reported on calls by HM Chief Inspector of Prisons for Scotland, Wendy Sinclair-Gieben, to address overcrowding in Scotland's prisons. In her final annual report, Ms Sinclair- Gibson, has called for "a bold and brave transformational justice agenda" to reduce the prison population and also highlighted that too many acutely mentally unwell people are being held in custody.

Mental Health

[Progress report on the delivery of Scotland's suicide prevention strategy published](#)

The Scottish Government has published an annual report from Suicide Prevention Scotland outlining the progress made in the first year of delivery of Scotland's suicide prevention strategy, Creating Hope Together. The report highlights key achievements from 2023-24, including the establishment of Suicide Prevention Scotland's leadership team and the wider delivery collective, refreshing the Lived and Living Experience Panel and Youth Advisory Group, and establishing a Lived and Living Experience Steering Group, and continuing actions that were established through the previous suicide prevention action plan, Every Life Matters. An [annual report from the National Suicide Prevention Advisory Group \(NSPAG\)](#) has also been published. NSPAG was established to provide independent assurance and advice to the Scottish Government and COSLA on the strategy's progress.



[Prescribing guide for antidepressants published](#)

The Scottish Government has published its Quality Prescribing for Antidepressants guide for 2024-2027. The guide highlights that the prescribing of antidepressants continues to rise in Scotland and notes that some long-term use of antidepressants may be inappropriate and highlights the importance of regularly reviewing ongoing treatments. The guide includes a number of recommendations which are aimed at supporting healthcare professionals and those that provide support to people on antidepressant treatment to facilitate the appropriate use of antidepressants.

Older People

[13 health boards allocated a share of £3.6 million for Hospital at Home](#)

The Scottish Government has allocated 13 health boards a share of £3.6 million in funding for Hospital at Home. The service enables older people to receive acute hospital care in their home instead of being admitted to hospital. In 2023/24, almost 15,000 used the service, with an estimated £14.9 million saved in traditional hospital admission costs.

Other Health and Social Care

[Care Inspectorate statistical bulletin on complaints about care services 2019-2024](#)

The Care Inspectorate has published the latest statistical bulletin from our series on complaints about care services registered with the Care Inspectorate. The report covers complaints received and investigated between April 2019 to March 2024 with a particular focus on the most recent year April 2023 to March 2024. In 2023/24 we received 5,646 complaints, 40% of which were about care homes for older people. A total of 4,467 complaints were resolved using our four resolution pathways and 73% of the complaints where the Care Inspectorate conducted an investigation were upheld.

[National Care Service Bill Stage 2 call for views deadline extended](#)

The Health, Social Care and Sport Committee has extended the deadline for submitting views on the draft amendments the Scottish Government is proposing to make to the National Care Service (Scotland) Bill. The deadline to submit your views is now 20 September 2024.

[Call for views on revised decisions guidance for fitness to practise panels and SSSC staff](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) is seeking views on proposed changes to the format and content of current decisions guidance for fitness to practise panels and SSSC staff. The proposed changes include changes to some of the wording around conditions in order to make it clearer who they apply to, more detail around equality, diversity and inclusion, and reference to conducting fitness to practise processes in a trauma informed way. The proposed changes are set out in full in the consultation survey and the draft revised guidance can be accessed [here](#). The



SSSC is also hosting a number of online events in August and September for people to find out more about the proposed changes and to give their views. The consultation closes on 27 September.

[PHS briefing on the right to healthcare for people with no recourse to public funds](#)

Public Health Scotland has published a briefing on the impact the 'no recourse to public funds (NRPF)' immigration condition can have on people's health and how they access health services. It highlights the risks and consequences of poverty and destitution, and that these can have an impact on physical and mental health. The briefing outlines some actions that services can take to help reduce health inequalities and improve health outcomes for those who are subjected to the NRPF condition.

[The ALLIANCE has announced nominees for this year's Self Management Awards](#)

The Self Management Awards 2024 shortlisted nominees have been announced by the Health and Social Care Alliance (the ALLIANCE). The awards take place each year to celebrate the best of Self Management support across Scotland. There are seven award categories, including self management in the community. The winners will be announced at a ceremony on 25 September.

Workforce

[SSSC is seeking input to help build a careers opportunities tool for social care](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) is developing an online careers opportunities tool for the adult and children's social care workforce. The online tool will include information on up to 100 different job roles and careers available, and aims to help people working in social care or who are looking to join the sector to discover and navigate careers information. The SSSC are now inviting people at all stages in their career to take part in future workshops, demonstrations and surveys to help with the design of the new tool.

[RCN has updated guidance on when staff can refuse to treat a patient in their care](#)

The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) has stressed the importance and value of migrant nursing staff, and updated its [guidance](#) on when and how members can refuse to treat a patient in their care. RCN has also highlighted employers' duty of care to keep staff safe when delivering care in the community or in a hospital.

**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.