

9-15 August 2024



bulletin



Adult and Health



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Covid-19 - General

[Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry invites businesses to share experiences](#)

The Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry's participation project, Let's be Heard, has launched a survey for the business community to share their experiences of the pandemic. Businesses of all sizes, from all sectors and locations across Scotland, as well as third sector organisations such as charities, social enterprises and community groups are invited to take part in the survey. The survey will close on 30 September 2024.

Alzheimer's/Dementia

[£310,000 fund now open for grassroots dementia projects](#)

Age Scotland's About Dementia project is inviting groups across Scotland to submit proposals for its 2025 Encouraging and Supporting Grassroots Activity (ESGA) fund. The funding is provided by the Scottish Government and is designed for smaller, grassroots organisations looking to provide community-led support for people affected by dementia. £310,000 in funding is available with individual awards ranging from £5,000 to £20,000. Interested groups are invited to submit their proposals by Friday 13 September 2024. This year, there is a focus on supporting projects in rural communities to address the unique barriers faced by people living with dementia and their unpaid carers in rural areas.



Equalities

[Guidance on collecting and using staff equality data in the justice sector](#)

The Scottish Government has published a guidance note on collecting and using staff equality data in the justice sector. The guidance has been developed by the Cross Justice Working Group on Race Data and Evidence and the Cross Justice Group on Race and Workforce, and sets out the government's shared ambition for justice organisations to take a consistent and transparent approach to collecting staff equality data. It highlights why staff equality data is collected, what questions should be asked when collecting equality data, and how the data is used. It also highlights the reporting requirements for listed authorities to publish Equality Outcomes and Mainstreaming reports on a regular (2-4 year) cycle.

Learning Disabilities

[Learning disability and autism research](#)

Learning Disability Today (LDT) has highlighted key pieces of research on learning disability and autism. The 3 research studies cover the importance of developing supportive and trusting relationships between support workers and people with learning disabilities, transitioning to out-of-area placements, and overcoming communication barriers to essential services for autistic adults.

Mental Health

[NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde is seeking views on how mental health services are delivered](#)

The Health and Social Care Alliance (the ALLIANCE) has highlighted a series of events for members of the public to share their views on the future of mental health services in Greater Glasgow and Clyde. NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde (NHSGGC), in partnership with local Health and Social Care Partnerships, are inviting people to share their views on how mental health services are delivered through a number of public events in August and September. An online session will take place in the evening of 23 September 2024.

Older People

[PHS encourages those eligible for RSV vaccine to get vaccinated](#)

As Scotland's new Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) vaccine programme begins, Public Health Scotland (PHS) is encouraging those who are eligible to get vaccinated. Health boards have been sending out letters inviting people who are currently eligible to come forward for the vaccine. This includes those turning 75 years old on and between 1 August 2024 and 31 July 2025, and anyone who is aged 75 to 79 years old on 1 August 2024.



[Scottish Government confirms decision to restrict Winter Fuel Payments](#)

Social Justice Secretary Shirely-Anne Somerville has confirmed the Scottish Government will replicate the UK Government's decision to means test the winter fuel payment. Ms Somerville said "this is a necessary decision when faced with such a deep cut to our funding and in the most challenging financial circumstances since devolution. The reduction we are facing amounts to as much as 90% of the cost of Scotland's replacement benefit, the Pension Age Winter Heating Payment".

Other Health and Social Care

[COSLA reiterates support for Anne's Law in letter to committee regarding NCS Stage 2 amendments](#)

COSLA has written to the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee to clarify some points from the Scottish Government's package of draft amendments to the National Care Service (Scotland) Bill. In the letter, COSLA has highlighted that there are a number of areas related to NCS reform where no consensus has been reached between Local Government and Scottish Government and that these discussions are ongoing. COSLA also refers to an error in the Government's correspondence to the Committee on amendments relating to Anne's Law and clarifies that COSLA hasn't requested further time to consider amendments related to Anne's Law. Members of the NCS Expert Legislative Advisory Group (ELAG) have also [written](#) to the Committee clarifying the extent of the groups involvement in the Scottish Government's draft Stage 2 amendments and stating that their participation in the ELAG should not be considered as an indication that they "are necessarily individually or collectively supportive of the draft Scottish Government amendments or have co-designed them".

[Feedback on a National Care Service Board published](#)

The Scottish Government has published the findings from engagement and co-design sessions on a National Care Service (NCS) Board. The Government worked with organisations that support people from groups and communities who often face barriers to engaging with the Government to run co-design sessions that focused on a NCS Board. The report highlights that people want more information on how the Board will work and more clarity around membership and what is expected of Board members. An [easy read version](#) of the findings is also available.

Other

[New delivery plan launched for refreshed Equally Safe strategy](#)

COSLA and the Scottish Government have published a new delivery plan for Scotland's strategy for preventing and eradicating violence against women and girls (VAWG), Equally Safe. The plan includes 14 deliverables and sets out specific actions to be taken forward under each deliverable. It sets out how the Scottish Government will support women and girls from minority ethnic groups, women and girls with learning disabilities, and take a public health approach to preventing violence against women and girls. It also sets out actions to raise awareness of the



scale and impact of VAWG, including a public facing engagement campaign to work with men and boys to challenge misogyny, and challenging the nature of existing media coverage of VAWG. An [easy read version](#) of the plan is also available.

[Quarter one statistical summary report for the Care Inspectorate](#)

The Care Inspectorate Statistical Summary Report for Quarter 1 of 2024/25 has now been released. This presents data on the number of registered care services, new registrations and cancellations, complaints about care services and quality theme grades all by care service type and or service sector. This is updated on a quarterly basis.

Workforce

[RCN welcomes UK Government's commitment to repeal the Strikes Act 2023](#)

The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) has highlighted the UK Government's commitment to repeal the Strikes (Minimum Service Level) Act 2023. The Act gives employers powers to apply minimum service levels (MSL) in sectors such as health, education, and fire and rescue. The Act will be formally repealed through the Employment Rights Bill which will be introduced in the first 100 days of the new government.

[RCN raises concern around difficulties for nursing students to secure nursing roles](#)

The BBC has highlighted concerns from the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) around reports that more than half of Glasgow Caledonian University's 200 students have been unable to secure placements within NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde (NHSGGC). Figures from March 2024 show health boards had around 600 vacancies for nurses and midwives.



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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