




Adult and Health



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Covid-19 - General

[Review of lessons from pandemic responses](#)

The Scottish Government has published 'Conducting evaluation during times of change: Lessons from policy and community responses to the pandemic in Scotland', reviewing existing evidence from evaluations of Scottish Government COVID-19 measures, in order to develop key principles for embedding evaluation more systematically into policymaking during times of rapid change or disruption. The review looks at the themes of timing, equalities, emergency support measures and evaluation design.

[Update on preliminary hearings for education and business](#)

The Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry has set out updated information on preliminary hearings for Portfolio 4 (education and certification) and Portfolio 2 (business and welfare), which will now be held on one day, 19 September 2024, rather than over two days.



Adult Support and Protection

[Resource hub launches to share learning for Adult Support and Protection](#)

The Institute for Research and Innovation in Social Services (Iriss) has launched the ASPIre Hub for people working in Adult Support and Protection to share learning and browse resources. The ASPIre Hub is a collaboration between Iriss, the National Adult Support and Protection Co-Ordinator, and has been supported by Scottish Government.

Alzheimer's/Dementia

[Funding for centres to support dementia researchers](#)

The Alzheimer's Society has announced funding for three new Doctoral Training Centres to support dementia researchers. The centres will support nearly 90 students over five years to enter dementia research and will be led by Professor Stuart Allan at Manchester University, Professor John-Paul Taylor at Newcastle University, and Professor Nathan Davies and Professor Claudia Cooper at Queen Mary University of London.

[License issued for medicine for adult patients in early stages of Alzheimer's disease](#)

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency has approved a product licence for the medicine lecanemab (Leqembi) for use in the early stages of Alzheimer's disease. The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has however [issued draft guidance](#) recommending that the benefits of the newly licensed medicine do not justify the costs, and do not recommend its use on the NHS. The public consultation on the draft NICE guidance will close on Friday 20 September 2024. The independent committee will consider all responses at a second committee meeting later in the year before producing its final recommendations.

Justice

[Figures on Community Payback Orders](#)

The Scottish Government's Chief Statistician has published figures on Community Payback Orders (CPOs) – unpaid work and other activity requirements, covering the changes in rates of progression during and after the COVID-19 pandemic, information on number of hours imposed by the courts for this requirement and the number of unpaid work hours to be progressed. Key figures include that in 2022-23, there were 14,700 CPOs imposed by the courts, which included 1.32 million unpaid work hours imposed as part of unpaid work requirements, and at the start of the financial year 2023-24, there were 9,100 unpaid work requirements being progressed in Scotland.



[Recorded crime in Scotland for year ending June 2024](#)

The Scottish Government's Chief Statistician has published 'Recorded Crime in Scotland, year ending June 2024', providing information on recorded crimes up to year ending June 2024, and the previous four years. In the year ending June 2024, police in Scotland recorded 300,070 crimes, which was 3% higher than the 292,702 crimes recorded in the year ending June 2023, and similar to the 300,333 crimes recorded in the year ending June 2020.

Mental Health

[Summary of consultation on draft national specification on eating disorders](#)

The Scottish Government has published a summary of consultation responses on the draft National Specification for the Care and Treatment of Eating Disorders. Following recommendations by the National Review of Eating Disorder Services, a working group developed the National Specification for the Care and Treatment of Eating Disorders in Scotland and a public consultation asked for views on the Specification overall, the impact of the nine Outcomes on the experiences and outcomes of people accessing eating disorder treatment, and on the proposals for implementing and monitoring the Specification. Overall, the key message is that there is widespread support for the draft National Specification, but for this to be implemented successfully it will require significant financial investment, increased service capacity, extensive training, and more guidance around how the proposals would operate in practice.

[Terms of reference for mental health leadership board](#)

The Scottish Government has published terms of reference for the Mental health and wellbeing strategy: Leadership Board, which will focus on supporting and overseeing the delivery of the ten priorities in the Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy and related actions set out in the Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy Delivery Plan and the Workforce Action Plan.

[Mental Health Officers report for 2023](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has published the Mental Health Officers (Scotland) Report 2023 with information on the number of practising MHOs in post at 5 December 2023, excluding long-term absentees, MHO trainees, leavers, vacancies and staffing shortfalls, and key characteristics of the MHO workforce (e.g. age) and the type of teams they work in. The key points include that there were 729 active MHO posts in 2023, which is 22 more than the 707 in 2022, and the number of individuals (headcount) working as an MHO rose from 670 in 2022 to 697 in 2023.

Other Health and Social Care

[Inspections of maternity units to start from January 2025](#)

Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS) has confirmed that they will carry out inspections of maternity units from January 2025, following a recommendation in



their report on neonatal deaths which recommended review of maternity and neonatal care to prevent as many baby deaths as possible. Inspections will be unannounced and will focus on how care for mothers and babies can be improved.

[National Induction Framework to be developed](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) and NHS Education for Scotland (NES) are developing a National Induction Framework which aims to help reduce the problem of duplicated induction activities. They will work with the social care sector to identify the core training and learning outcomes that people entering the social care workforce need. In spring 2025, they will test the initial materials with providers to allow further design and development with the aim of having a robust National Induction Framework in place by March 2026.

[Interim Convener appointed to the Council of the SSSC](#)

The Minister for Children, Young People and the Promise has accepted the resignation of Sandra Campbell in her role as Convener of the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) and appointed Peter Murray as the Interim Convener of the SSSC from 1 October 2024.

[Plans to strengthen tobacco legislation to include outdoor smoking](#)

The BBC reports on plans by the UK Government to introduce tighter restrictions on smoking outdoors, including in pub gardens, outdoor restaurants, outside hospitals and sports grounds. The measures will reportedly be included in reintroduced legislation which aims to increase progressively the age at which people can buy cigarettes. The restrictions on outdoor smoking will target outside areas where there are large concentrated groups of people, particularly children.

Workforce

[Report on workforce data for 2023](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has published a workforce data report for 2023. This report provides an overview of the data at a national level and, where possible, also provides data sub-divided by sub-sector or local authority area. Key findings include that the size of the workforce rose slightly to 212,780, an increase of 0.6% since 2022, the social service workforce makes up approximately 8.1% of all Scottish employment, and the three largest sub-sectors are housing support/care at home, care homes for adults and day care of children; together these account for almost 79% of the workforce.

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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](#).

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