

13-19 September 2024



bulletin



Adult and Health



[Covid-19 - General](#)

[Alzheimer's/Dementia](#)

[Mental Health](#)

[Older People](#)

[Other Health & Social Care](#)

[Other](#)

[Workforce](#)

Covid-19 - General

[Module 10 of the UK Covid-19 Inquiry opened](#)

The final investigation of the UK Covid-19 Inquiry has now opened. Module 10 'Impact on Society' will consider the impact of the pandemic on the UK's population, including the impact on mental health and wellbeing, with a particular focus on the experiences of key workers, the most vulnerable and those bereaved during the pandemic.

[Survey for businesses to share pandemic experiences](#)

The Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry survey for the business community will close on 30 September 2024. The survey is open to businesses of all sizes, including third sector organisations such as charities, social enterprises and community groups, and for-profit organisations, to share their experiences of the pandemic.



Alzheimer's/Dementia

[New research shows the impact of dementia on the NHS](#)

New data by Alzheimer's Society shows that people living with undiagnosed dementia attend A&E three times more than those without the condition. The findings come from research undertaken by Carnall Farrar Ltd and also suggest that the more severe the dementia, the longer people stayed in hospital following unplanned admissions. Alzheimer's Society is calling for increased access to early and accurate dementia diagnosis to help families manage symptoms and avoid reaching crisis point, and to make savings in the NHS.

Mental Health

[Mental Welfare Commission publishes 12 new visit reports](#)

The Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland has published 12 new reports following visits to mental health and learning disability services in Scotland. The reports highlight positive findings, aspects of care and treatment where services could do better and recommendations for change where necessary.

Older People

[DWP estimates suggest 780,000 eligible pensioners will lose out on fuel payment \(England\)](#)

The BBC has reported that around 780,000 pensioners in England and Wales will lose out on their winter fuel allowance as they are not expected to apply for benefits they are entitled to, according to an analysis by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). The DWP estimates also suggest that around 71% of people living with a disability will lose their winter fuel payment.

Other Health and Social Care

[COSLA raises concerns around model of shared accountability for NCS](#)

COSLA has written to the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee expressing concerns in relation to the National Care Service (Scotland) Bill and draft amendments brought forward by the Scottish Government. Council leaders have raised concerns that the draft revised legislative approach outlined by Scottish Government does not effectively represent a clear model of shared accountability. COSLA notes that it is in the process of seeking further engagement with the Scottish Government to address these concerns ahead of the formal Stage 2 process. In its letter, COSLA has also suggested that there is still insufficient evidence to support the inclusion of children's, justice social work and homelessness services within the scope of the National Care Service Board.



[Independent report on the state of the NHS in England](#)

An independent review of the state of the National Health Service (NHS) in England has found that the health of the nation has deteriorated, public satisfaction is at its lowest, waiting time targets are being missed, and that as of June 2024, more than 1 million people were waiting for community services. The independent investigation was commissioned by the UK government to understand how the NHS is performing and was led by Lord Darzi. In his report, Lord Darzi concludes that the NHS in England is “in serious trouble” and identifies a number of themes for how to repair the NHS. He notes that these need to be considered alongside strategies to improve the nation’s health and reforms to social care.

Other

[Joint letter from over 100 organisations calls for a Human Rights Bill for Scotland](#)

The Human Rights Consortium Scotland (HRCS) has written to the First Minister on behalf of over 100 organisations criticising the Scottish Government’s decision to delay the introduction of a Human Rights Bill in this parliamentary session. The HRCS notes that there is broad support for the incorporation of human rights into Scots Law and calls on the First Minister to commit to introducing the Bill by February 2025.

Workforce

[Fitness to practise referrals for Newly Qualified Social Workers](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has published information on fitness to practise referrals for Newly Qualified Social Workers (NQSW) and what effects the NQSW Supported Year might have. The SSSC notes that the same professional standards apply for NQSWs as for other social workers, but notes that NQSW’s relative inexperience may be considered a mitigating factor when deciding whether their actions impair their fitness to practise.

**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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