




Adult and Health



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COVID-19

[Winter impact hearings timetable confirmed](#)

The Scottish COVID-19 Inquiry has confirmed its Portfolio 2 impact hearings, on business and welfare, will run from 2-18 December. The timetable has also been confirmed for Portfolio 4 hearings which will start on 5 November, with witnesses from organisations including Early Years Scotland, Scottish Childminding Association, LEAD Scotland and NUS Scotland.

Alcohol and Drugs

[People's panel established to scrutinise drug harm](#)

The Scottish Parliament has announced plans for a “people’s panel” to scrutinise the issue of drug deaths and drug related harms in Scotland. The panel will be made up of 25 people from across the country and will work together to discuss what needs to be done to tackle these issues. A final report by the panel will help inform the cross-Committee scrutiny of matters related to reducing drug deaths and tackling problem drug use by the Criminal Justice Committee, the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee, and the Social Justice and Social Security Committee.



Disabilities

[Clearer action plan needed to tackle disability employment gap](#)

The Scottish Parliament's Economy and Fair Work Committee has published a report on the disability employment gap. The Committee is calling on the Scottish Government to deliver a clear and measurable action plan focused on the needs of people with a learning disability and neurodiverse people. Its inquiry heard the current strategy does not contain enough detail on how the target to half the disability employment gap by 2038.

End of Life/Palliative Care

[Advice for doctors involved in assisted dying debate](#)

The UK chief medical officers and NHS England National Medical Director have published advice to support doctors who wish to take part in the debate over assisted dying, following the introduction of draft Bills in Scotland and England. The advice acknowledges that many doctors will have strong, informed opinions on the topic and gives the view that it is reasonable for any doctor to share these opinions. There are certain issues which should be avoided, according to the guidance, such as identifying individuals doctors have cared for, or directly engaging patients in debate.

Justice

[Emergency Bill to tackle prison population](#)

The Scottish Government will introduce emergency legislation to Parliament which will propose a change to the release point for short-term prisoners serving sentences of less than four years. The Bill aims to contribute to the sustainable long-term management of the prison population. The proposals, scheduled to come into effect from February next year, would apply to both those currently in prison and those sentenced in future. If backed by Parliament, it is estimated the changes could result in a sustained reduction to the prison population of between 260 and 390.

Other Health and Social Care

[New process for collecting feedback from care service providers](#)

From week commencing 21 October 2024, we are changing the process of how we collect feedback from care service providers following inspections. Previously, feedback from providers was gathered through Microsoft Forms. We are now introducing a more streamlined process that links feedback to individual inspections. After we issue each final inspection report, providers will receive an email giving them access to our new Inspection Satisfaction Questionnaire (ISQ) platform. They will be given: a link to the ISQ platform, an inspection report document ID and 4-digit PIN to be entered to complete the survey. The current MS Forms will remain active until 18 November 2024, allowing us to continue capturing feedback from services on inspections completed before the new platform is launched.



[Quality improvement framework for adult support and protection](#)

The Care Inspectorate have published a Quality Improvement Framework (QIF) designed to help adult support and protection partnerships conduct multi-agency self-evaluations of their adult support and protection arrangements. Developed through extensive collaboration, including input from stakeholders and individuals with lived experience, the QIF aims to underpin future joint inspections and support continuous improvement.

[Publication of final CQC review report](#)

The final report of the Dash review into the operational effectiveness of the Care Quality Commission (CQC) has been published. Following on from the interim report, the review has found significant failings in the internal workings of CQC, which have led to a substantial loss of credibility within the health and social care sectors, a deterioration in the ability of CQC to identify poor performance and support a drive to improve quality - and a direct impact on the capacity and capability of both the social care and the healthcare sectors to deliver much-needed improvements in care. A second [review considering the wider landscape for quality of care](#), with an initial focus on safety, will be published in early 2025.

[Survey on next phase of National Induction Framework development](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has provided an update on its work on a National Induction Framework. Following work with various stakeholders on where the Framework should be hosted and other issues, the SSSC is now hoping to engage more widely with the sector on the content of the Framework. A Delphi Consensus Process survey has been launched for owners, managers and learning and development staff to share their views on a range of learning areas that could be part of the final Framework. The closing date is 1 November.

**Disclaimer**

This weekly bulletin is produced as an update on key developments concerning adults and health related issues.

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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