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bulletin

  
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and  
Health[Alcohol and Drugs](#)[Care Homes/Care at Home](#)[Covid-19 - General](#)[End of Life/Palliative Care](#)[Other Health & Social Care](#)[Workforce](#)**Alcohol and Drugs**[Alcohol and Drug Partnerships \(ADPs\) 2023/24 annual survey report](#)

The Scottish Government has published a report on responses to the annual survey of Alcohol and Drug Partnerships (ADPs) in Scotland for 2023/24. The key findings from the survey responses show that almost all ADP areas reported having specific groups or structures to inform surveillance and monitoring of drug harms and deaths. The survey responses also show all ADPs having formal mechanisms in place at an ADP level to gather feedback from people with lived and/or living experience who use ADP-funded services, including as part of the Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) programme.



## Care Homes/Care at Home

### [Free personal and nursing care 2023-24 statistics published](#)

The Scottish Government has published data on the number of people aged 18 and over that benefit from Free Personal Care (FPC) and Free Nursing Care (FNC) in Scotland, and the amount that local authorities spend on personal care services. The statistical release shows that among the 28,210 long-stay residents aged 65 and over in care homes with local authority support, 39% were self-funders receiving Free Personal Care (FPC) and/or Free Nursing Care (FNC) (together, FPNC). Of the estimated 48,820 people aged 65 and over who receive care at home, 97% (an estimated 47,130) received personal care services as part of their Care at Home package in 2023-24, which is a 4% increase from the estimated 45,330 in 2022-23.

## Covid-19 General

### [New study on factors influencing wellbeing and distress in people with Long Covid](#)

The Health and Social Care Alliance (the Alliance) has highlighted an opportunity to take part in a new research study exploring the psychological and social factors influencing wellbeing and distress in people with Long Covid. The study is being conducted by an NHS employee and postgraduate student at the University of Edinburgh and aims to explore how people cope with Long Covid symptoms and how this impacts mental health. As part of the study, the researchers are now inviting those with Long Covid to take part in a survey which will take approximately 15 minutes to complete.

### [JCVI statement on Covid-19 vaccination in 2025 and 2026](#)

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) has issued a statement on the Covid-19 vaccination programmes for 2025 and spring 2026. The JCVI advises that adults aged 75 years and over, residents in a care home for older adults, and individuals aged 6 months and over who are immunosuppressed should be offered the Covid-19 vaccination in spring 2025, autumn 2025 and spring 2026.

## End of Life/Palliative Care

### [Analysis of consultation responses to Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults Bill](#)

A [summary of responses to the short call for views](#) and an [analysis of responses to the detailed call for views](#) on the Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill have been published. The majority of respondents to the short call for views expressed full support for the Bill with the key factors for those in support of the Bill being reducing suffering, personal dignity, and personal autonomy. Respondents who opposed the Bill expressed concern around the sanctity of life and the potential impact on vulnerable people. The majority of responses to the detailed call for views were opposed to the Bill, with the analysis showing that a large proportion of responses gathered did not address the provisions set out in the Bill but instead expressed opposition to assisted dying in principle. Key themes identified in the detailed call for views include the dangers of a “slippery slope” towards more



expansive legislation, that proposals undermines the dignity or sanctity of life, and the potential impact on healthcare professionals, healthcare services, suicide prevention activities and on family and friends.

## **Other Health and Social Care**

### [Latest six-monthly social worker report published by SSSC](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has published its latest six-monthly report on filled and vacant social worker posts in Scotland's local authorities. The report includes data from 31 local authorities gathered in June this year and shows that the number of whole time equivalent (WTE) social workers in post increased by 4.8% to 6,212 WTE practising social workers in June 2024. It also shows the number of social work vacancies fell to 9.3% from 10.3% in December 2023. The report also includes feedback from senior local authority staff on social worker numbers and vacancies in their local authorities which shows that retention of more experienced staff is an issue and that due to a shortage of suitable applicants the labour market is more competitive.

### [Final progress report on the delivery of the Women's Health Plan 2021-24](#)

The final report summarising the progress made on delivering the Women's Health Plan 2021-2024 has been published by the Scottish Government. The report outlines the progress made on cross-cutting actions, including developing new information resources on menopause, periods and menstrual health, planning for pregnancy, women's heart health and hysterectomy, appointing a Women's Health Champion, and the publication of a [Review of the Data Landscape](#) which sets out a range of publicly available data on the health of women and girls in Scotland. The report also notes that over the coming months the government will work with women and girls, healthcare professionals, academics and the third sector to ask what they want to see in the next phase of the Women's Health Plan.

## **Workforce**

### [RCN calls on government to increase pay for nurses and waive graduate loans \(England\)](#)

The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) has highlighted the rising rate in the number of nursing staff quitting the profession early in England. RCN suggests that since 2021, the number of UK-educated nursing staff leaving the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) register within the first 10 years of joining has increased by 43% and 67% for those leaving in the first 5 years. RCN is calling on the government to increase pay for nursing staff in order to make nursing more attractive and to waive graduate loans for nursing staff who agree to stay working in the NHS and public sector.

### [Reflection and self-assessment tool to improve chronology practice](#)

The Institute for Research and Innovation in Social Services (Iriss) has launched a tool designed to help leaders to improve chronology practice. A reflection and self-assessment tool aimed at practitioners, those in learning and development and



training roles, team leaders and managers at all levels, working with children, young people, and adults across Social Work, Social Care, Education, Police, Justice, and Health sectors, the tool's scope acknowledges that chronologies are essential across the lifespan, and enhancing chronology practice requires a holistic approach.

### **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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