




Adult and Health



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Care Homes/Care at Home

[Fact Sheet on care home visiting](#)

The Meaningful Connection, Visiting and Anne's Law Project has published a factsheet about visiting in adult and older people's care homes, which covers expectations for visiting in both normal and exceptional circumstances. We hope it will be useful for care home providers, managers and staff, people experiencing care, their families and friends, and other relevant people.

[Ethical commissioning for social care](#)

Scottish Care has launched a report, 'Ethical Commissioning for the Independent Sector: Rights, Respect and Redistribution', setting out their vision for the sector and presenting research on current commissioning and procurement practice. The report concludes that an ethical approach includes protecting human rights of individuals, shared accountability and responsibility, and redistribution of funds.



Covid-19

[Timetable for Scottish Covid Inquiry business and welfare impact hearings](#)

The Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry has confirmed the timetable for the business and welfare impact hearings for December 2024. The timetable confirms dates and witnesses for each date, and the Inquiry is now accepting requests to attend the hearings.

Equalities

[Annual report for human rights commission](#)

The Annual Report for 2023-24 has been published by the Scottish Human Rights Commission (SHJRC). The report highlights their work, including spotlight projects focused on monitoring and reporting to deliver improved accountability across Scotland. Their work includes a report on places of detention, progress reports on human rights sent to international treaty bodies, and calling for faster progress towards independent living for people with learning disabilities held in institutions.

Infection Prevention and Control

[Call for eligible people to get vaccinated against flu and Covid-19](#)

Public Health Scotland is calling for eligible people most vulnerable to flu and Covid-19 to get vaccinated, including older adults, and people with underlying health conditions, such as heart conditions or liver disease. Pregnant women are also strongly recommended to take up the vaccines, and all frontline health and social care workers are eligible for the free flu and COVID-19 vaccines, while all NHS staff are eligible for the flu vaccine this year.

Justice

[Bill to support criminal justice system and set up framework for reviews](#)

The Scottish Parliament's Information Centre (SPICe) has published a briefing on the Criminal Justice Modernisation and Abusive Domestic Behaviour Reviews (Scotland) Bill. The Bill's two parts aim to support the resilience, effectiveness and efficiency of the criminal justice system (for example, through greater use of digital processes), and sets out a statutory framework for a national system of domestic homicide and suicide reviews. The stated purpose of such reviews would be to identify what lessons can be learned following a death where abuse is known or suspected, with the aim of helping to prevent future abuse and deaths.

[Introduction of legislation for automatic release from prison](#)

The Scottish Government has introduced the Prisoners (Early Release)(Scotland)Bill which aims to manage the rising prison population by allowing for short-term prisoners serving a sentence of less than four years to be automatically released after two-fifths (40%) of their sentence. The change will not apply to those serving



short sentences for domestic abuse or sexual offences, who will continue to be released after they have served 50% of their sentence.

Mental Health

[New eating disorder guidance published](#)

The Scottish Government has announced the publication of a national specification to support people affected by an eating disorder. The guidance will help both the NHS and local services to deliver person-centred, safe and effective care and aims to ensure everyone has access to a high-quality standard of care regardless of what stage they are in their recovery. The National Eating Disorder Specification will sit alongside and complement the [Core Mental Health Standards](#), published last year.

Older People

[Standards for ageing and frailty](#)

Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS) has published standards for ageing and frailty, 'Ageing and frailty: Standards for the care of older people', which updates and replaces 'Standards of Care for Older People in Hospital' from 2015. The standards apply in all settings where older people living with frailty receive health and social care. There are eight standards providing a benchmark for progress towards nationally consistent integrated frailty services. Underpinned by three key principles that services should have a focus on prevention and early intervention, people's choices and what matters to them should be at the centre of discussions, and interventions should be the least intrusive or restrictive possible.

Other Health and Social Care

[Review of progress on adult support and protection in West Lothian](#)

A progress review carried out by the Care Inspectorate, Healthcare Improvement Scotland and His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland, following a previous joint inspection of adult support and protection conducted in 2022, has reportedly found that the partnership has implemented and embedded changes in practice that has led to substantial improvement to the quality and consistency of initial inquiry work. Other areas of progress and improvement include consistent application of chronologies, risk assessments and protection plans, and key changes to frontline processes to drive up consistency and quality of work.

[Update on National Care Service](#)

The Scottish Government's Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport Maree Todd has written to the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee, confirming the Scottish Government is not seeking to start Stage 2 consideration of the National Care Service (Scotland) Bill on Tuesday 26 November and that it will work with the committee and parliamentary bureau to agree a revised timetable for 2025.



[Report on review of National Outcomes](#)

The Scottish Parliament's Finance and Public Administration Committee has published a report on its scrutiny of the National Performance Framework and National Outcomes. The evidence reportedly shows that an effective implementation plan is essential to delivering the vision of the National Performance Framework, including better linking of budgetary decisions to the National Outcomes and transparency on how National Outcomes will be used by the Scottish Government in deciding National policy and strategy.

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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