




Adult and Health



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Alcohol and Drugs

[PHS reports on residential rehabilitation placements](#)

Public Health Scotland (PHS) has published an evaluation of the Scottish Government Residential Rehabilitation programme. It includes information on the number of individuals who started a residential rehab placement in Scotland in financial years 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23. The report notes that in 2022/23, 1,670 individuals were recorded as having started a residential rehab placement in Scotland. An [interim monitoring report](#) on statutory-funded residential rehabilitation placements that were approved between 1 April 2021 and 30 September 2024 has also been published by PHS. The interim monitoring report notes that between 1 April 2024 and 30 September 2024, a total of 442 residential rehabilitation placements were approved for statutory funding in Scotland. This is a decrease of 37 placements compared to the same period last year.



Care Homes/Care at Home

[Care Home Data Review publishes full report](#)

The Scottish Government has published a full report from the Care Home Data Review (CHDR), a collaboration between the Scottish Government, Public Health Scotland, and the Care Inspectorate which aims to improve the care home data landscape. The report is the main output of the first phase of the review. It outlines key topics which have emerged from the review and provides a summary of evidence, case studies, desired outcomes from any improvements and the recommended actions needed to bring about these outcomes. A Care Home Data Working Group, responsible for prioritising the recommendations from the review and developing a phased programme of work for implementation, has been set up for the next phase of the review.

[Care Inspectorate highlights the importance of visiting over festive season](#)

All services must ensure that even during an outbreak, people are supported to stay connected, in person, with those who are important to them, when this is what people want. This is supported by the [Health and Social Care Standards](#), which set out the clear expectation that everyone who lives in a care home will always have the right to see and get support from loved ones, even if restrictions on visiting are required at any time.

Covid-19

[Further impact hearings planned for 2025](#)

The Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry will hold impact hearings on two additional themes in 2025. The additional themes are Worship and Life Events (29 April – 2 May 2025) and Equalities and Human Rights (10-20 June 2025).

Equalities

[NES taking part in accreditation programme to address barriers women face at work](#)

NHS Education for Scotland (NES) has announced that it is participating in the Equally Safe at Work accreditation programme. The programme, developed by Close the Gap, supports employers to improve their employment practice to advance gender equality at work and prevent violence against women.

Justice

[Prison population projections suggests overall prison population will increase](#)

Scottish Government prison population statistics and projections suggests that it is likely that the overall prison population will increase between 1st November 2024 and 30th April 2025. The latest report on the Scottish Government modelling of the level of the prison population in Scotland notes that the average daily prison population could be between 7,950 and 8,900 in April 2025. These projections don't



take into account the expected reduction to the prison population from implementation of the Prisoners (Early Release) (Scotland) Bill. When implemented, the Bill is expected to reduce the prison population by between 260 and 390.

[Inspectorate of prisons for Scotland raises concerns around prison transport](#)

The BBC has reported on concerns raised by the HM Inspectorate of Prisons for Scotland (HMIPS) around prison transport issues, including prisoners missing hospital appointments and family funerals. The HMIPS report has criticised the transport provider GEOAmev for cancellations of planned transport and made 25 recommendations for improving services.

Mental Health

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

The Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland has published 8 new reports following visits to mental health services and community services and one prison in Scotland. The reports highlight positive findings, aspects of care and treatment where the service could do better and recommendations for change where necessary.

Other Health and Social Care

[PHS highlights importance of vaccination for protection against serious illness from flu](#)

Public Health Scotland (PHS) has published the latest figures of viral respiratory diseases which show a sharp increase in laboratory-confirmed cases of flu in Scotland. PHS has noted that there were over 350 flu-related emergency hospital admissions in the first week of December and that cases of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) remain at extraordinary levels. PHS highlights that vaccination offers the best protection against serious illness and calls on those eligible for a flu or Covid-19 vaccine to get vaccinated.

[SSSC Annual Report 2023-2024](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has published their 2023-2024 Annual Report, which reflects on a number of developments over the past year including the review of SSSC's approach to qualifications and continuous professional learning and the review of Codes of Practice for Workers and Employers. The report also highlights the release of more data on the registered workforce and reports on key registration information and fitness to practise data.

[New report reveals areas of nursing and midwifery concerns raised by public and employers](#)

New data from the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) has revealed the areas of nursing and midwifery practice that the public and employers are more likely to raise concerns about. The first Insight into Fitness to Practise report, an analysis of fitness to practise data, by the NMC suggests that the public are more likely to raise



concerns about nursing and midwifery professionals' communication and manner, while employers tend to focus on performance-related issues and competence. It also notes that both patients and employers most commonly raise certain patient care concerns relating to diagnosis, observation, or assessment of patients.

Workforce

[RCN calls for action to reduce drop-out rates of nursing students \(England\)](#)

The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) has called on the UK Government to introduce a loan-forgiveness model for students who commit to working in the NHS and wider public services in order to make nursing a more attractive degree and career. RCN has found that more than 32,000 student nurses in England could drop out of their courses by 2029 and notes that this figure is enough to fill every nursing vacancy in the NHS in England.

[SSSC sets out its role in addressing inappropriate behaviour in the workplace](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has highlighted employers' legal duty to prevent sexual harassment in the workplace and the SSSC's role in addressing this issue within the social service sector. As a public body, the SSSC has a legal duty to eliminate discrimination and harassment carried out due to sex, race and other protected characteristics and notes that when a worker has been affected by a colleague's inappropriate behaviour, their employer may (and in some cases must) make a fitness to practise referral.

[New toolkit launched by RCN to help start conversations around inclusion](#)

The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) has launched a new toolkit to help members start conversations around equity, diversity and inclusion. The toolkit includes scenarios with advice on how to deal with various real-life situations, such as issues around ethnicity, disability, gender identity and pregnancy.

**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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