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Alcohol and Drugs

[People's panel report on reducing drug related harms](#)

A people's panel's report sent to the Scottish Parliament's MSPs relating to the public's view on what Scotland needs to do different to reduce drug related harms has called for public campaigns to raise awareness of drug harm and drug use, recommends funding should be ring fenced and prioritised on prevention and seeks improvements in information shared between government agencies. Requested by the Cross-Committee on tackling drug deaths and drug harms, the panel has heard evidence people with lived experience of drug harms, from academics and researchers, and from stakeholders who work in this area, and concludes that a lack of urgency in responding to drug harm and use reinforces the stigma already associated with these issues.



Covid-19

[Scottish Government response to UK Covid Inquiry's recommendations](#)

The Scottish Government has confirmed that they will act on all recommendations relating to Scotland in the UK Covid-19 Inquiry's report on pandemic resilience and preparedness of the United Kingdom. The Deputy First Minister has stated that work is already underway in a number of areas including pandemic planning, improving risk assessment processes and ensuring the availability of reliable health, economic and social data, as well as a Ministerial Oversight Group to co-ordinate preparedness across Government.

Disabilities

[Resource aims to improve the experiences of people with learning disabilities](#)

The Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) has published a resource for the adult social care workforce, 'Tackling inequalities in care for people with learning disabilities and autistic people', which aims to give commissioners and practitioners the practical steps, confidence, and legislative awareness needed to improve experiences of care and support. Developed with a group of people with lived experience of learning disabilities and autism, the guidance brings together learning from discussions about the challenges experienced during and after the Covid-19 pandemic, and amongst other content the guidance contains practical steps to take to improve experiences of care for people with learning disabilities and autistic people, and information on the legislative and legal frameworks that underpin practice.

Justice

[Statistics published on justice social work services](#)

The Scottish Government's Chief Statistician has published part 2 of the 2023-24 justice social work statistics, including information on justice social work services and characteristics of people involved. The part 2 publication provides information on justice social work reports, community payback orders, and drug treatment and testing orders, for 2023-24, and where possible, for the years back to 2014-15, in order to show trends over the last ten years.

[Appointment of next Police Investigations and Review Commissioner](#)

The Scottish Government has confirmed the appointment of Laura Paton as the next Police Investigations and Review Commissioner. Currently His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prosecution in Scotland, Ms Paton will take up her role as Commissioner on 1 April 2025, for a five-year period. The Police Investigations and Review Commissioner (PIRC) aims to increase public confidence in policing through the independent investigations into serious incidents involving all policing bodies operating in Scotland and the way they respond to public complaints, as well as promoting continuous improvement.



Other Health and Social Care

[Statistical Summary Report for Quarter 3 of 2024/25](#)

The Care Inspectorate Statistical Summary Report for Quarter 3 of 2024/25 has now been released. This presents data on the number of registered care services, new registrations and cancellations, complaints about care services and quality theme grades all by care service type and or service sector. This is updated on a quarterly basis.

[Ten year strategy published for social services institute](#)

The Institute for Research and Innovation in Social Services (Iriss) has published a year strategy outlining the organisations priorities, goals and ambitions for the next ten years. The document defines three areas for 'Key Resets' where Iriss working with the broader sector can provide the conditions for social work and social care to flourish, alongside practical ideas for focusing effort and evaluating success.

[Second phase of review into CQC's assessment framework \(England\)](#)

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has published the terms of reference for the second phase of the review looking at CQC's assessment framework and its implementation. This includes work led by Professor Sir Mike Richards (MR) and a further targeted programme of engagement with care providers, led by the Care Provider Alliance (CPA), which is chaired by Professor Vic Rayner OBE, both of which will focus on supporting CQC to improve the experience of assessment for providers, increase the transparency of ratings and ensure that robust guidance for CQC staff is underpinned by what providers and people who use services expect.

[Welsh inspectorate proposals on framework for published inspection ratings \(Wales\)](#)

Care Inspectorate Wales has confirmed that a new inspection ratings system for care homes and domiciliary support services will come into force in April 2025. Following a Welsh Government consultation on proposals for both adult and children's care homes, as well as domiciliary support services, the new system to be introduced aims to improve transparency while maintaining appropriate sensitivity for different care settings, provide an instant view of the quality of care people can expect from a service, enable people to more easily select a care service that's right for themselves or their family member, and encourage care providers to improve their services.

Workforce

[Survey of people working in or who have worked in social services in Scotland](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) is conducting a survey of people working in, or who have worked in, social services in Scotland, to help build a picture of people's experiences. They are looking for workers in all kinds of social work, social care and children and young people roles, and they don't need to be registered with the SSSC, to share their views on wellbeing, pay, terms and



conditions, support for, and access to, training and qualifications and experiences of working in the sector. The 'Have Your Say Workforce Wellbeing Survey' should take around 15 minutes to complete and closes at 5pm on Friday 14 February.

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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