

23 - 29 May 2025



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Covid-19

Summary of engagement activities for Scottish Covid Inquiry

The Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry has published an engagement summary of activities for their public participation project, Let's Be Heard. The project was set up with the aim to give a voice to everyone who was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic in Scotland between 2020 and 2022. The project has now completed its public engagement and its in-house research team is now analysing all the experiences which have been shared to help inform the Inquiry's investigations and the recommendations it makes to Scottish Ministers.



Disabilities

Cost of living as a disabled person

Disability Equality Scotland has published a new Cost of Living Research Report 2025, collating the views and the contemporary lived experiences of disabled people to examine the impact of the cost of living crisis. Issues identified by the report include the cost of running independent living equipment, percentage of net income spent on energy bills, suitability of homes, and paying for adaptations. The reported overriding consensus from disabled people is that due to the additional costs which they incur because of their impairments, this has resulted in a greater exposure to financial instability and challenges.

Older People

Campaign to encourage older people to exercise to age better

Age Scotland's campaign 'Act Now, Age Better' is encouraging older people to exercise and be more physically active to age better, hoping to start a national conversation about how becoming more physically active in our 50s and 60s can improve the chances of a happier, healthier and more independent later life.

Other Health and Social Care

Toolkit for Getting it right for everyone

The Scottish Government has published 'Getting it right for everyone (GIRFE) toolkit' to assist professionals to provide holistic support. It includes ten tools that can be used together or separately based on individual needs. GIRFE principles - written from the person's perspective - include:

- having accessible information to make decisions
- being listened to and understood as a whole person
- having choices respected
- being treated with kindness and dignity
- having professionals work together and share information appropriately

Workforce

Revised code of practice for international recruitment in health and social care

The Scottish Government has published 'Health and social care personnel international recruitment: updated code of practice', a revision of the code of practice for the international recruitment of health and social care personnel in Scotland to ensure ethical recruitment. The code aims to:

• promote high standards of practice in the ethical international recruitment and employment of health and social care personnel



- ensure all international recruitment is conducted in accordance with internationally agreed principles of transparency and fairness
- protect and promote the sustainability of health and care systems through international cooperation, by ensuring there are safeguards and support for countries with the most pressing health and social care workforce challenges

Governance arrangements for NHS Scotland

Audit Scotland has published a report on NHS Scotland's governance arrangements, outlining the existing planning and governance of the 22 NHS Boards under NHS Scotland, and examining the weaknesses and opportunities. Recommendations by Audit Scotland include clear articulation of governance, authority and lines of accountability, put a learning and evaluation framework in place, and consider how the experience of under-represented groups and people who use services can be brought to boards so that the planning and delivery of healthcare services is informed by user experience.

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 <u>Newsdirect</u>, <u>Community Care</u>, <u>Children & Young People Now</u> and <u>ISD</u> <u>Scotland</u>.

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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