

27 June – 10 July 2025

**bulletin**


# Adult and Health

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The Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry has set out its plans for 2025-26, including its focus on implementation and decision-making during the pandemic and preparing to hear oral evidence from Scottish Ministers and senior officials. Let's Be Heard – the inquiry's listening project – will continue its research and analysis and publish a final set of reports in 2026.

[Blog on international social care responses to Covid-19](#)

The UK Covid-19 Inquiry is currently focusing on social care in its hearings. The Nuffield Trust has published a blog looking at a set of international case studies which explore what can be learned from other countries and how they managed their social care systems during the pandemic. The reports, from Denmark, France, Japan and the Netherlands, highlight how care systems that are effectively prepared for crisis, have clarity lines of accountability and provide relatively good workforce terms and conditions had a more positive experience in their response to Covid-19.



## Disability

### [National Transitions to Adulthood Strategy published](#)

A strategy aimed at ensuring every young disabled person in Scotland feels confident in their transition to adulthood has been published by the Scottish Government. The National Transitions to Adulthood Strategy outlines six overarching priorities: choice, control and empowerment; clear and accessible information; coordination of support; high-quality transitions practices; data collection and measurement; and connecting to a wider policy landscape. The Government and COSLA will work collaboratively with key partners to drive delivery of the strategy, with the first progress report to be published by the end of 2026.

### [Iriss resource on pathways and perspectives in relation to disabilities](#)

A co-produced resource on the theme of disabilities in personal and professional life has been published by Iriss. The document, aiming to encourage critical reflection on dimensions of practice and care, has been co-authored by 14 people, sharing their own pathways and perspectives on disabilities across a wide variety of contexts and countries.

## Equalities and Human Rights

### [Consultation analysis on Equality and Human Rights Mainstreaming strategy](#)

The Scottish Government has published analysis of responses on to a recent consultation on the Equality and Human Rights Mainstreaming strategy. Respondents were asked for views on the proposed framework that will support the Scottish Government, the wider public sector and partners to embed equality and human rights in all their work. The analysis shows broad support for the proposals put forward, which cover issues such as leadership, developing accountability, utilising evidence and experiencing and improving capacity.

### [Human Rights Bill discussion paper](#)

The Scottish Government has published a discussion paper on proposals for a Human Rights Bill. The paper follows a consultation on proposals for human rights incorporation legislation in 2023 and the subsequent decision to delay the introduction of related legislation until the next parliamentary session. It goes into detail on each of the specific proposals the Scottish Government is considering for the Bill, including proposed duties for 'oversight bodies'. The paper will be followed by a range of engagement activities with stakeholders.

## Health

### [Hospital at Home expansion](#)

The Scottish Government has announced the expansion of the Hospital at Home service. The service predominantly provides care for frail, older people in their own



homes and who may be suffering with acute illnesses and health conditions, including respiratory and cardiac conditions, infections, or treatment after a fall. It will be expanded to 2,000 beds by December 2026, while frailty services will also be introduced to every A&E department by the end of summer 2025 to cut the length of hospital stays.

### [HIS Integrated Delivery Plan](#)

Healthcare Improvement Scotland has published its Integrated Delivery Plan for 2025-26. The plan sets out the organisation's key themes for the year ahead, which align with the Scottish Government's planning priorities. These include supporting the shift to care closer to people's homes, mental healthcare assurance, the National Mission to reduce drug related deaths and harms, and national leadership in intelligence sharing.

## **Justice**

### [New Chief Inspector of Prosecution](#)

The new HM Chief Inspector of Prosecution in Scotland has been appointed. Deborah O'Brien Demick will succeed Laura Paton when she takes up her new position on 14 July.

## **Older People**

### [Older adults encouraged to get RSV vaccine](#)

Public Health Scotland is encouraging older adults to take up the offer of vaccination against Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV). In the coming weeks, those turning 75 years old between 1 August 2025 and 31 July 2026 will receive invitations to get their RSV vaccine.

## **Workforce**

### [Support for including new workforce groups in SSSC Register](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has shared findings from its consultation on expanding the workforce Register with Scottish Government, along with its recommendations on which new groups to include. The consultation, which closed in April, showed strong support for the expansion of the Register with over 80 per cent agreeing with the proposed new groups. These are: adult day care service (support worker, practitioner and supervisor); offender accommodation service (practitioner, supervisor and manager); and social work assistant. IF the Scottish Government agree with the proposals, the new groups will start registering in stages under a timeline agreed by SSSC and Ministers.

### [Collaborative leadership programme running in autumn](#)

The SSSC has announced the You as a Collaborative Leader (YaCL) programme will run again in autumn 2025. The course is described as a leadership development



opportunity for social service and healthcare professionals to develop the skills and knowledge to lead effectively across integrated settings where good collaboration is essential. The closing date for applications is Friday 11 July 2025.

#### [Select committee report on UK Government handling of skilled worker visas](#)

The UK Parliament's Committee of Public Accounts has published findings of its inquiry into immigration and skilled worker visas. The report explores how the Home Office implemented changes to the Skilled Worker visa route in 2022, including the high number of applicants entering the UK on a Health and Care Worker visa. The report suggests there was insufficient cross-government collaboration to prevent exploitation of migrant workers in this sector. In light of proposed changes to immigration policy, the Committee has asked the Government to provide more detail on the decision to end overseas recruitment for care workers, including the expected impact on the sector's workforce.

#### [Timeline published for new employment rights](#)

The UK Government has published the Employment Rights Bill Implementation Roadmap, setting out timelines for measures in the Bill coming into effect. The Bill includes a provision for regulations to establish the fair pay agreement adult social care negotiating body in England, to raise standards and pay in the social care sector. The Scottish Government [recently secured](#) agreement from the UK Government to have this part of the bill apply to Scotland. The roadmap suggests the regulations to establish the negotiating body will be published in October 2026.

#### [Views sought on social work education standards](#)

The SSSC has opened a consultation on pre and post qualifying standards for social work education, due for publication in 2026. The consultation, which closes on 8 September, seeks views on the existing Standards in Social Work Education and on the development of post-qualifying standards for social work. The SSSC is holding a series of online information sessions on the proposals for students, graduates, NQSWs, educators and course providers.

#### [Social Care Nursing Survey – closes on 31 July](#)

Scottish Care has launched the 2025 Social Care Nursing Survey, which aims to gather data on the numbers, experiences and support needs of nurses in social care and the organisations that employ them. Scottish Care hopes to use insight from the survey to help shape future policy and strategies to better support nurses in social care.

#### [Consultation on English language requirements for qualified social workers](#)

A consultation on the introduction of English language requirements for qualified social workers has been launched by the SSSC. The proposal, which would require qualified social workers applying to register to evidence their competence of the English language, aims to align social work with other regulated professionals including doctors, nurses, dentists and pharmacists. The consultation includes



details of the four proposed ways English language competency could be demonstrated. Views are welcome until the consultation closes on 15 September.

## **Other Health and Social Care**

### [First Good Food Nation Plan laid before Parliament](#)

The Scottish Government has published the proposed national Good Food Nation Plan. The Plan is centred around six Good Food Nation Outcomes, including ensuring our food environment enables people to eat well, securing a sustainable food system, improving physical and mental health, empowering communities to shape their food system and making sure Scotland plays a role in transforming global food systems. The document highlights existing policies which will support these objectives, including in health and social care.

### [Review of patient safety in health and social care \(England\)](#)

Dr Penny Dash has published a review of patient safety across the health and care landscape in England. The review follows Dr Dash's review into the operational effectiveness of the Care Quality Commission in 2024. The final report makes a series of recommendations to improve patient safety in England, as well as a specific recommendation for a national strategy for quality in adult social care.

### [Analysis of responses to consultation on universal definition of 'care experience'](#)

The Scottish Government has published analysis of its consultation on the need for a universal definition of 'care experience' and the language of care. According to the analysis, respondents were overwhelmingly supportive of creating a universal definition of care experience, though both advantages and disadvantages were acknowledged. Organisations acknowledged the usefulness of the terms 'care leaver' and 'looked after', but many also felt that the terms could be exclusionary to some who may still need assistance. Over two thirds of respondents indicated that each of the experiences listed in the consultation paper should be included in a universal definition.

**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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