

Health, Care and Sport Committee
16 September 2026
4th Meeting, 2026 (Session 7)

Priorities of the Scottish Government for session 7 in health, social care and sport

Introduction

1. At today's meeting, the Committee will take evidence from—
 - Angela Constance MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Care
 - Alison Thewliss MSP, Minister for Community Care
 - Maree Todd MSP, Minister for Mental Wellbeing, Public Health, Sport, Alcohol and Drugs
2. The purpose of the meeting is to take evidence on the Scottish Government's priorities in health, social care and sport for session 7 of the Scottish Parliament (2026-2031).
3. This meeting follows two committee meetings in September, the purpose of which was to enable Members to gain an overview of the key issues in committee's remit (on health and on care), by hearing from a cross-section of key organisations and individuals. A further meeting on sport will be held on 23 September.
4. Once these sessions are complete, the Committee will then be able to make decisions about its early work programme.

Today's meeting

5. One panel of witnesses will attend today, representing the Scottish Government.
6. The Cabinet Secretary and the two Ministers have the following responsibilities.

Angela Constance MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Care

- primary care and general practice
- health and social care reform, including integration
- acute services
- unscheduled care
- NHS performance
- workforce, training, planning and pay
- patient services and patient safety
- quality and improvement
- person-centred care
- digital health and care, including MyCare and Digital Prescribing
- NHS estate
- centre of excellence for rural and remote medicine and social care
- health research and health innovation

- public protection
- Scottish Hospitals Inquiry and Eljamel Inquiry
- future medical workforce

Alison Thewliss MSP, Minister for Community Care

Supports the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Care

- community care, including community audiology, optometry and dentistry
- Integration Joint Boards
- Health and Social Care Partnerships
- social care and adult social care workforce
- medical records
- mobile healthcare
- palliative care
- sensory impairment/loss
- augmentative and alternative communication
- self-directed support
- care, support and rights
- adult support and protection
- dementia
- Care Inspectorate
- Independent Living Fund
- carers, including young carers and unpaid carers

Maree Todd MSP, Minister for Mental Wellbeing, Public Health, Sport, Alcohol and Drugs

Supports the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Care

- public health and healthy working lives
- population health
- women's health
- abortion
- child and maternal health
- mental health and wellbeing policy, strategy and legislation
- Mental Welfare Commission
- child and adolescent mental health
- suicide prevention
- mental health services, including forensic mental health services and reform
- social prescribing
- healthy weight, nutrition and diet policy
- sexual health and reproductive health
- alcohol and drugs
- sport and physical activity
- health improvement and protection
- tobacco and vapes
- vaccination and screening

- Public Health Scotland
 - neurodivergence support and pathways for children, young people and adults
 - LGBT healthcare
 - health inequalities
 - pharmacy
7. A separate SPICe briefing paper (**Paper 2**) is available in order to inform this session.
 8. In addition, SPICe has published a [Spotlight blog](#) which covers three health-related strategy documents published by the Scottish Government in 2025: the Operational Improvement Plan (OIP), the Population Health Framework (PHF) and the Health and Social Care Service Renewal Framework (SRF).
 9. Members will have up to 2 hours for this panel.

Action

10. Members are invited to question the Cabinet Secretary and the two Ministers about the Scottish Government's priorities in health, social care and sport for session 7 of the Scottish Parliament.

Clerks to the Committee
September 2026