

The Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (the ALLIANCE)

ALLIANCE
HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE
ALLIANCE SCOTLAND
people at the centre



Workshops for Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) and Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Information Pack

Introduction and Purpose

The Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (the ALLIANCE) are inviting you to register your interest to participate in a workshop for infection prevention and control and antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in Scotland. These workshops will be used to gather insights to both shape priorities on infection prevention and control and AMR.

The Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (the ALLIANCE) are working with the Scottish Government to deliver a national programme of community and lived experience engagement on infection prevention and control (IPC) and anti-microbial resistance (AMR). The programme will seek to understand experiences and perspectives relating to infection prevention and control (related to health and social care associated infections) and antimicrobial resistance and ensure that lived experience is represented within Scotland's health and social care policy in these areas.

As part of this work the ALLIANCE is running a series of facilitated workshops, both online and in-person, across Scotland. The purpose of these workshops are to:

- Build awareness on infection prevention and control and antimicrobial resistance.
- Understand people's experiences, concerns and priorities on what Scottish Government should do with relation to the national action plan and strategy on these areas.
- Bridge the gap between national policy, people's lived experiences and the practical changes needed to prevent health and social care associated infections and tackle antimicrobial resistance to keep people well.
- Explore public understanding, trust and communication including what messages resonate and what makes health information credible or confusing with these areas.

- Create opportunities for people who may be less likely to participate in these policy discussions including people with long-term illness, disabilities, people experiencing poverty, minority communities, unpaid carers and people with direct experience of resistant or health and social care associated infections.
- Generate practical ideas and community-led solutions by asking participants what would make a difference in their own communities.

We will cap each workshop at 30 participants. **Participants do not need to be an expert or know about infection prevention and control or antimicrobial resistance to take part. Your experience is what matters**. In the sign-up form you will be asked to select all workshop/s dates you can attend to create a higher likelihood you will be invited to at least one.

Discussions and insights captured from these workshops will feed into both Antimicrobial Resistance's National Action Plan and An Infection Prevention and Control Strategy for Scotland respectively. Whilst both topics overlap, they each have their own strategies and priority areas, which will form the basis of discussions for these workshops. Our first set of workshops will be delivered in December. Please see the workshop schedule below.

Register your interest using the sign-up form here: Antimicrobial Resistance and Infection Prevention and Control in Scotland Workshops – Fill in form

Workshop Schedule

Meeting topic	Time, date, location & workshop purpose	Agenda overview
What is Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)?	**Wednesday 2nd December 10am-1pm** Edinburgh General Public/Lived/Living Experience	-Introduction -What is antimicrobial resistance and how does it impact life in Scotland? -AMR priorities in Scotland (Scottish Government action plan)

	Purpose: to increase understanding of antimicrobial resistance, explore public perceptions and experiences and gather insights from communities to inform Scotland's approach to tackling AMR.	-Your experiences of AMR -Your priorities and recommendations
Health and Social Care Associated Infections and How Do We Keep People Well?	**Wednesday 2nd December** **5pm-8pm** Online General Public/Lived/Living Experience **Purpose:** to explore how health and social care associated infections can be prevented, and gather lived experience and ideas to inform improvements to infection prevention and control across Scotland	-Introduction -What are health and social care associated infections and how does it impact life in Scotland? -Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Strategic priorities from Scottish Government -Identify practical changes to support the prevention of healthcare and social care associated infections. -Your priorities and recommendations for infection prevention and control in Scotland
Living with Vulnerability to Infection	**Thursday 3rd December** **10am-1pm** Online Lived/Living Experience **Purpose**: to explore the lived experiences of people who are more vulnerable to infection, understand the challenges they face in preventing and managing health and	-Introduction -Overview of Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) strategies. -What helps people stay well? -Experiences of health and social care associated infections, impact and access to advice

	social care associated infections, and identify opportunities to improve infection prevention and control.	-Your priorities and recommendations for national and local action.
AMR and Health Inequalities	**Thursday 3rd December 2pm-5pm** Lived/Living Experience **Purpose**: to explore the relationship between antimicrobial resistance, infections and health inequalities, understand how inequalities shape people's experiences and opportunities to prevent and manage infections, and identify actions to ensure everyone has a fair opportunity to stay well.	-Introduction -Overview of AMR and AMR strategy -Experiences of antibiotics/medicines, health inequalities and access to support and advice -Identify practical changes that could improve infection prevention, support and quality of life -Your priorities and recommendations for local and national action
AMR & Behavioural Change	**Monday 7th December 10am-1pm** Glasgow General Public/Lived/Living Experience **Purpose:** to explore the behaviours and influences that contribute to infection prevention and antimicrobial resistance, understand the barriers and enablers to positive behaviour change and identify opportunities to support individuals and	-Introduction -Overview of AMR and AMR strategy -Current behaviours to keeping well and what motivates you to change the way you prevent infections? -Review of national messaging including the balance of antibiotic use -What information would help you understand the relationship between antibiotics, infection prevention and AMR? -How can we encourage behaviour change without

	communities to adopt behaviours that help prevent infections and tackle AMR.	creating stigma, blame or fear? What would make a new behaviour easier to incorporate into everyday life? -Your priorities and recommendations for local and national action
AMR, Animal Health & the Environment	**Monday 7th December 2pm-5pm** General Public/Lived/Living Experience **Purpose:** to explore the interconnected relationship between antimicrobial resistance, animal health and the environment, understand how antimicrobial use and resistance move across different settings, and identify opportunities for collaborative action through a One Health approach.	-Introduction -What is antimicrobial resistance and how does it impact life in Scotland? -How does antimicrobial resistance impact animal health and the wider environment? -Identify gaps, shared risks and practical changes people could make to reduce antimicrobial resistance in Scotland? -Your priorities and recommendations for local and national action

Who could take part?

We are interested in hearing from people with a range of experiences from across Scotland. **You do not need to be an expert in antimicrobial resistance or infection prevention and control to understand the science or terminology. Your experience is what matters.** We are particularly interested in hearing from people who might have experienced or be the following:

- Older adults

- People who have experienced urinary tract infections (UTIs), including recurrent UTIs
- People who use, or have experience of using urinary catheters, including people who have experienced catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTIs)
- People living with diabetes
- People living in areas of socioeconomic deprivation or experiencing financial disadvantage
- People from ethnic minority communities
- Pregnant women and people accessing maternity services
- People who are immunocompromised or have increased susceptibility to infection
- Families and parents
- Young people
- Unpaid carers
- Care home residents and care home staff
- People with learning disabilities
- People having experienced an infection that was resistant to antibiotics or another antimicrobial medicine
- People having needed treatment for a recurrent, difficult to treat or long-term infection
- People taken antibiotics, antifungals, antivirals or medicines where treatment has been complicated or unsuccessful
- People supporting or caring for someone who has experienced a resistant or difficult to treat infection
- People having experience of healthcare services in relation to infection or microbial treatment
- People having experience of infection prevention, antimicrobial use or resistance in another part of your life or community
- Other experiences that you feel are relevant to AMR or infection prevention and control in Scotland.

We welcome participation from people with lived experience, as well as those who support or work with these communities. We recognise that

people may identify with more than one of these groups and that experiences of infection prevention and antimicrobial resistance can vary considerably. We are keen to hear a range of perspectives to help inform inclusive, accessible and effective approaches to infection prevention and control across Scotland. We will be collecting equality monitoring information in a separate anonymised form.

Facilitated workshops

The workshops will be hosted by the ALLIANCE through trained neutral facilitators to gather ideas and build consensus amongst the group. You will be having discussions at smaller tables. Workshops will be informed by the latest Scottish Government action plans on antimicrobial resistance and infection prevention and control.

Gift of thanks

To say thank you for giving up your free time, providing your valuable insights and reduce any barriers to participation we will be offering our workshop participants **£20 gift of thanks vouchers.**

Register your interest

The ALLIANCE will collect equality monitoring information on workshop participants in a separate form. This is to ensure that our workshops are representative of a range of experiences.

You can expect to hear from us by **Friday 27th November** if you have been invited to take part or with other ways to engage in the programme. You will be able to register your interest in any of the workshops up until the day before each workshop.

Please register your interest using the sign-up form here: Antimicrobial Resistance and Infection Prevention and Control in Scotland Workshops – Fill in form

What is Infection Prevention and Control and what do we mean by health and social care-associated infections?

You can read more here about the strategic vision and priority statements by Scottish Government here: Strategic Vision, Scope and Priority Statements - Health and social care - infection prevention and control strategy: vision and priority statements - gov.scot

Health and social care-associated infections (HSCAI) can develop either as a direct result of health or social care interventions, or from being exposed to transmission risks arising from other people or the environment in a health or social care setting (e.g., hospitals, care homes, GP surgeries, dental practices, supported living, rehabilitation centres, community treatment centres, people's own homes, as some examples). People in health and social care settings can be at greater risk of infection; for example, they may be of an older age, have pre-existing conditions, have complex care needs and care related interventions such as urinary catheters. Some are more at risk because of the close contact they make with multiple people who live, work in or visit these settings. Health and social care-associated infections can be influenced by shared facilities, duration and frequency of contact, ventilation, infection prevention practices and individual vulnerability to infection.

What is Antimicrobial Resistance or AMR?

Antimicrobial resistance is when the medicine used to treat infections does not work or is resistant.

Antimicrobials are types of medicines used to treat infections in humans, animals. These include:

- medicines that kill bacteria (antibiotics),
- medicines that kill viruses (antivirals),
- medicines that kill yeasts and fungi (antifungals),
- medicines that kill protozoa (antiprotozoals).

There are several commonly used terms associated with AMR, including:

- Resistance of microbes to medicines used to treat infectious diseases, including antibiotics, antivirals, antifungals, and antiparasitic medicines. This broad umbrella term covers resistance in bacteria, viruses, fungi (including yeasts), and protozoa - **antimicrobial resistance**
- Resistance that occurs specifically in bacteria, making antibiotics less effective or ineffective. It is one of the most common and well-recognised forms of antimicrobial resistance, and some organisations prefer using this term in public communication as it is easier to understand - **antibiotic resistance.**
- Bacteria that are resistant to multiple antibiotics and are therefore harder to treat. This is a popular, non-scientific term often used in the media and public health campaigns, but it is now generally avoided in public messaging as it can be misleading and cause confusion, including unintended positive connotations – **superbugs**
- Reduced effectiveness of medicines such as antibiotics, antivirals, antifungals due to bacteria, viruses and fungi no longer responding to antimicrobial medicines. This term is often used interchangeably with antimicrobial resistance - **drug resistance.**

Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) is invisible, I am not: Videos by WHO's Task Force of AMR survivors

Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) explained with magic- ABMU Pacesetter Project

Other opportunities to engage

We recognise that not everyone who completes the form will be able to take part and/or be available to attend a workshop in December. As part of this programme there will be other ways to engage such as joining a future workshop in 2027, completing a survey, participating in a more personal case study story as part of our Humans of Scotland series or even hosting your own community event and discussion about these topics.

About the ALLIANCE

The Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (the ALLIANCE) is the national third sector membership organisation for the health and social care sector. We bring together over 3,500 people and organisations dedicated to achieving our vision of a Scotland where everyone has a strong voice and enjoys the right to live well, with dignity and respect. Our members are essential in creating a society in which we all can thrive, and we believe that by working together, our voice is stronger.

We work to improve the wellbeing of people and communities across Scotland by supporting change in health, social care and other public services so they better meet the needs of everyone in Scotland. We do this by bringing together the expertise of people with lived experience, the third sector, and organisations across health and social care to shape better services and support positive change.

The ALLIANCE has three core aims.

We seek to:

- **Empower people with lived experience**: we ensure disabled people, people with long term conditions, and unpaid carers are heard and that their needs remain at the heart of the services and communities.
- **Support positive change**: we work within communities to promote co-production, self management, human rights, and independent living.
- **Champion the third sector**: we work with, support and encourage co-operation between the third sector and health and social care organisations.

The ALLIANCE is committed to upholding human rights. We embed lived experience in our work and aim to ensure people are meaningfully involved at every level of decision-making.

Working together creates positive, long-lasting impact. We work in partnership with the Scottish Government, NHS Boards, universities, and other key organisations within health, social care, housing, and digital technology to manage funding and develop successful projects. Together, our voice is stronger, and we can create meaningful change.

Data Collection and Privacy

The ALLIANCE has a Data Protection policy in place and has conducted a data protection impact assessment. Please refer to the privacy statement and consent form for more information.

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