



**Message from Jane Grant, Chief Executive
(4 March 2022, 3.45pm)**

We have all seen in recent days the escalation of the conflict in Ukraine and to show our solidarity with the Ukrainian people, some of our hospitals are currently being lit in the colours of the Ukrainian flag at night. I realise that the situation between Ukraine and Russia will be on the minds of our staff for a number of reasons, not least our colleagues from across Eastern Europe, who may have family members and loved ones in the region, making this a particularly concerning time for them. My thoughts are with all of our staff who are personally affected and I would like to make clear that our teams will do all we can to provide the relevant support you may need during this difficult time.

Should staff members be in this position and need additional support, please speak with your line manager or local HR representative in the first instance. For all of our staff, including those of you who may be worried about the potential impact of the conflict, there are a range of support services available. More information about how to access these services is available on [StaffNet](#) and I would encourage those who feel they need to use them to please do so. A letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care, Humza Yousaf MSP to colleagues who have been directly affected by the conflict has been sent to us this morning and we are in the process of sharing it with the relevant staff members.

Unfortunately, we are seeing another rise in numbers of individuals with COVID infections in our local communities, which is having a direct impact on the number of patients being cared for in our hospitals as well as the number of residents in our adult care homes. Likewise, the number of staff currently absent due to COVID related issues is increasing and while our recruitment team continues to make good progress to recruit more people into our teams quickly, we all need to continue to be diligent and ensure that we are maintaining social distancing, undertaking lateral flow tests twice weekly and wearing appropriate face coverings when on our sites.

As you may have seen, Wards 2A and 2B in the Royal Hospital for Children will be reopening next week after a major refurbishment. Our young patients will be moving back to the RHC from Wards 6A and 4B in the QEUH, where they have been receiving their treatment while the work was undertaken. I would like to thank all those involved in the capital project including the NHSGGC Project Team led by James Huddleston, the designers and our external contractors. This highly complex project, completed within a working hospital and throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, was a significant feat of engineering, construction and multidisciplinary teamwork. My sincere thanks go too to all the staff in the paediatric haemato-oncology unit for continuing to provide compassionate, high quality care whilst in the adult hospital. It is important too to recognise the ward staff from Ward 6A who relocated at short notice to GGH and have worked there since. Thank you to you all.

I would like to share with you a patient's recent experience at the Renal Unit at the QEUH. One of our patients has fed back via Care Opinion that from the moment they arrived at the day unit, in a very serious condition, they received fantastic care and support from the team. The patient said that everything happened very quickly, from being seen right away, to ensuring that every appropriate test was carried out as soon as

possible. Every member of staff that the patient encountered “explained exactly what they were doing, were willing to answer every question, and they were always pleasant and considerate”. I would like to add my thanks to Dr Harrison, Dr Morris and Dr Grant along with all of the other staff who supported the patient through their treatment. In the words of your patient, “Congratulations on running such a wonderful unit that can bring such pride to the NHS”.

Finally, I would like to congratulate our Director of Estates and Facilities, Tom Steele, who has been appointed as an Honorary Professor of Glasgow Caledonian University (GCU). Tom is a graduate of GCU and has maintained alumni relations with the university since the 1990s. As well as his commitment to the university, Tom has also been the driving force behind a Memorandum of Understanding between GCU and NHSGCC under which 10 internships have been created for Sustainable Urban Environment and Environmental Management students, who have been supporting the Sustainability Team. A number of those students having gone on to work with us, improving our health care facilities and estates and providing expertise as we work towards becoming a net zero organisation. Congratulations Tom on your well-deserved accolade.

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