

Core brief

Message from Jane Grant, Chief Executive
(6 May 2022, 1.45pm)



This week, I am pleased to advise that the number of patients with COVID-19 who are receiving treatment and care in our hospitals and care homes continues to decline. Likewise, we are also experiencing an increase in the number of staff returning to work after a period of COVID-related absence. While I recognise that we still have around 400 colleagues who are yet to return to work, we are a significant step forward from where we were at the beginning of last month.

Given the nature of the service pressures we have been faced with for many, many months, it remains so very important that we all do what we can to support one another. It is the camaraderie and support network we provide to one another that helps us all to tackle the challenges we face, so please do what you can to continue to consider one another and provide support to your colleagues and teams whenever you can.

I also understand that we do continue to have a number of wards closed because of COVID which continues to create challenges for our teams. This is coupled with the continued issues concerning delayed discharges, as although numbers are coming down, it is a complex process, which takes time to address. I would like to reassure staff that we are doing all we can to try and make progress in this area and I hope that in the coming weeks, as a result of interventions such as our involvement in the Scottish Government's "Discharge without Delay" programme, we will begin to see a greater change. The programme is intended to reduce inpatient length of stay and build bed capacity by working with patients, their families and carers, along with our local teams, to help patients be treated in their home rather than in hospital where appropriate, which, in turn, will help us to free up bed space and assist people to recover in their own home.

Staff may have seen in the news recently, the story about the three siblings who have dedicated their careers to the NHS have celebrated their combined 100 years' service this year, with 90 of those years dedicated to nursing. Senior Charge Nurse Arlene Watson and Anaesthetic Nurse Roz Kerr, who both work for NHSGGC, alongside sister Jean Daly who works with NHS Lanarkshire have successfully managed to dedicate, on average, 30 years of nursing service each, which is a fantastic achievement. My thanks go to Arlene, Roz and Jean for your dedication to the NHS. I hope you all have many more happy years in your respective roles. The sisters' story should also act as a reminder to everyone who has reached 20, 30, 40 or a staggering 50 years' service in the NHS, that you can apply for your special Long Service Badge by filling in a form [online](#), so if you haven't done so already, I would encourage you to apply.

I had a great visit to Hillington Laundry this week, where I met some of the team who do such an important job, often behind the scenes, to make sure our hospitals are fully stocked and serviced. My thanks go to Scott, Kate, George and Matt for taking the time to show me around the laundry and give me a real insight into the work that is undertaken there. Also, my thanks to the wider team for your sterling efforts, particularly over the past two years. The role you all undertake is absolutely vital to the smooth running of our services and I am extremely grateful to you all for the job you do. Thank you.

This week, we have been celebrating International Day of the Midwife, which this year, gave us the opportunity to reflect on the past 100 years of midwifery, the progress that has been made during the past century and most importantly give our thanks and support to our midwife colleagues, right across NHS GGC. I would like to personally thank all of our hardworking and hugely professional teams of midwives for all that you do. You are with women and their families at one of the most stressful and beautiful times of their lives. You support them through the highs and lows of pregnancy and birth, you celebrate their joy and you comfort others through tragic loss. You are their helping hand through an experience, which they will always remember and I want to thank you all for your compassion and commitment to our mothers, their families and their children.

It is therefore appropriate that I also share with you some feedback from a patient, who gave birth at the QEUH recently. She said; "I had a really positive birthing experience at the QEUH just over two weeks ago where I gave birth to my first child, a baby girl. My midwife, Nicole, was nothing short of phenomenal. After a scare at Maternity Assessment she very quickly calmed me down and explained everything step by step to make sure I was happy with the plan. She kept me calm and reassured at every stage. Nicole even took the time to visit me briefly the next night whilst I was still in Ward 50 recovering, ensuring baby and I were doing OK. I can't thank her enough for making my experience truly amazing, I will never forget you! All future patients are in the best hands! A great big thank you to all staff who we met during our stay." This heartfelt feedback really sums up the role of a midwife for me and I am very grateful to Nicole and all of our midwife community for everything you do. Thank you.



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