

Core brief

Daily update
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A collaborative journey of care at NHSGGC's Geriatric Orthopaedic Rehabilitation Unit



This week, NHSGGC Chair Dr Lesley Thomson KC and NHSGGC Non-Executive Board Member, Michelle Wailes visited Wards 6A and 6C at Gartnavel Hospital, home to the Geriatric Orthopaedic Rehabilitation Unit (GORU). The wards provide vital care to patients aged 65 and over, supporting their recovery from injury through a collaborative, multidisciplinary approach.

During their visit, the Chair and Michelle met with staff and patients to see first-hand the compassionate, person-centred care being delivered every day. They heard directly from patients about their experiences including their regular

physiotherapy sessions in the ward's gym and occupational therapy in the specially designed ADL (Activities of Daily Living) Suite.

This unique space replicates a home environment, helping patients regain confidence in everyday tasks like using the kitchen, getting in and out of bed, or navigating the bathroom.

Dr Thomson shared a highlight from this visit, she said: "I was particularly impressed by the ward's teamwork and emphasis on partnership, not just between professionals, but with patients and their families. Staff actively involve loved ones in the rehabilitation process, teaching them exercises and techniques to continue care at home. This collaborative model ensures patients feel supported both in hospital and beyond."

Laura Wilson, Interim Chief Allied Health Professional said: "The staff within GORU have been working to reduce the length of stay for patients within the unit, and to enhance patient experience while in the wards. This includes increasing opportunities for patients to be active and have social interaction, as well as advocating for families and carers to be actively involved in patient's rehabilitation journey.

"Volunteers are also a valued part of the ward, assisting with running group sessions that promote further activity and social interaction between patients."

Ward staff highlighted the importance of clear, compassionate communication with patients and families also.

Claire McFadyen, Allied Health Professional Team Lead said: "Rehabilitation can be a long journey, and setting realistic expectations from the outset helps everyone stay informed and engaged throughout the process. We're thankful to our teams who have worked hard on this, creating new signage throughout the ward and asking for continuous feedback for improvement too."

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