

# Core brief

## Message from Jane Grant, Chief Executive (1 July 2022, 2.50pm)

I am disappointed to report that the number of COVID patients in our hospitals continues to rise. The prevalence in our local communities is also increasing, which is having a knock-on effect for our staff, with the number of people absent due to COVID-related issues also growing. I appreciate the impact this is having on our teams and I want to reassure you all that we are working hard to identify ways in which we can support staff back to work and on-board new staff as swiftly as possible. Similarly, we are working with our HSCP colleagues to try and tackle the issue of delayed discharges from our hospitals and our Communications Team is also using all the mechanisms available to us to inform members of the public to use our urgent care services appropriately, and to help us by continuing to wear face coverings in healthcare settings. While I am hopeful that we are reaching the peak of this current rise in COVID cases, I am also keen to ensure that we all remain vigilant and take the responsible actions both within and outwith the workplace to reduce the potential spread of infection.

This evening we will be lighting up the QEUH in blue to raise awareness of Action Mesothelioma Day. Approximately 2,700 people receive a mesothelioma diagnosis every year across the UK, with just over 10% of them resident in Scotland. Fortunately, we do have a national clinical network for Mesothelioma which, earlier this year, received NHS funding via the Scottish Cancer Network, enabling healthcare professionals from across the country to continue delivering high quality, patient centred care to sufferers. To find out more about Mesothelioma, please visit the Scottish Mesothelioma Network's [website](#).

I am delighted to share the news that earlier this week, our new Health and Care Centre at Greenock won a prestigious award from the Scottish Design Awards. The award, in the Health category of this year's awards, was for the innovative and unique design of the centre that we delivered in partnership with the Inverclyde HSCP, Inverclyde Council and Hub West Scotland. This will be a great boost for the team in Greenock, who I know are very proud of their Health and Care Centre and the role that it plays in the heart of the Inverclyde community.

I would like to remind staff that we have recently launched our Workplace Adjustment Passport, which has been created to support employees who have disabilities and health conditions to have a constructive dialogue about their individual needs with their line manager. The concept of the passport came from a staff-led initiative from our Staff Disability Forum and its implementation is part of NHSGGC's commitment to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. I would like to encourage any staff member who may be experiencing barriers at work through a disability or diversity to use this valuable tool so that you can have reasonable adjustments implemented. For more information about the Passport, please visit our [website](#).

This week I would like to share some feedback about the team at Princess Royal Maternity Unit. Our patient writes: "I attended for a check-up as I was feeling unwell at 22 +6 weeks, to then find out I was in labour due to an infection. This was the scariest time of my life, and from the beginning to the end, the doctors and nurses were there for me and my baby girl, and were amazing. I gave birth at 23 weeks. She arrived feisty and fighting. If it wasn't for the doctors, nurses and midwife, I don't believe my girl would be here today. After

spending 104 days in ICU with ups and down, she made it, all thanks to the team at NICU princess royal maternity. We are eternally grateful to have her home now and she loves and misses all her aunties and doctors. We will visit soon.” I would like to thank the team at the Princess Royal for the support they showed this patient and her very young daughter. The care you gave was so important and so very gratefully received. Thank you.

I would like to congratulate NHSGGC’s Director of Diagnostic and Regional Services, Arwel Williams on his appointment to the position of Director – South Sector. Arwel is set to take over the post from Frances McLinden, when she retires in the coming weeks. There will now be a period of handover ahead of Arwel moving into his new role and we will, in parallel, be recruiting for his replacement. I’m sure South Sector staff will make Arwel very welcome when he joins the team and will take the opportunity to wish Frances well in her final weeks with us.

Finally, I would like to record my thanks to Deputy Director of Nursing for Acute Services, Angela O’Neill and Director responsible for GP Out of Hours and with Public Health, Susan Manion, who are both retiring this week. I am grateful to Angela and Susan for the significant contribution they have both made during their time with NHSGGC. I know that colleagues will want to join me in wishing Angela and Susan a very long and happy retirement.

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