

Message from Jane Grant, Chief Executive (11 November 2022, 1.30pm)

In the past week, I was honoured to attend our annual Apprenticeship Graduation and Awards, which celebrates and recognises the next generation of NHSGGC talent. The Apprentice Programme is a key pillar of our Widening Access to Employment Strategy and provides us with an invaluable mechanism to attract, train and retain staff as well as build our future workforce so that we can continue to deliver our high standards of patient care.

This year we saw 11 apprentices graduating, we also have a further 77 currently in training across our services, and in the coming months, we will be welcoming another 15 people to join our teams. I am delighted to announce that Paul Kelly, a Plumber at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, was awarded the UNISON and UNITE the Union Year One Apprentice of the Year award and Ewan Gaffney, a Joiner at Gartnavel General Hospital, was our very deserving runner up in this category. Congratulations and very well done to your both.

I am also very pleased to announce that the winner of the overall UNISON and UNITE the Union Apprentice of the Year, is Scott Robb, a Multi-Skilled Technician in the Inverclyde Royal Hospital Estates Team, and our runner up is Irsa Pari, a Pharmacy Technician at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital. Congratulations and well done to Scott and Irsa for this significant achievement. I would like to wish you both the very best for your future careers. Other awards from the ceremony were Mentor of the Year, which was awarded to Amy Lee, from West Dunbartonshire HSCP and Assessor of the Year, which was awarded to Rosemary McDonald from Inverclyde Royal Hospital. My congratulations to you both.

I would also like to congratulate Heather Hodgson, our Lead Nurse Tissue Viability, who has won the prestigious Wounds UK Excellence Award, for the work undertaken at the Vale Of Leven Hospital on pressure ulcer prevention care planning. The work, which was delivered by Heather and her colleague Sean Chambers, who is a Senior Charge Nurse, was highly commended by the judges at the Wounds UK Conference which was held earlier this week. Well done to both Heather and Sean for your excellent work.

As staff will be aware, following the hugely successful COP26 conference which was held in Glasgow last year, the United Nations Climate Change Conference, COP27 is currently underway in Egypt. This is, once again, a great opportunity for us to consider our ways of working to become a more sustainable organisation and continue on our path to achieving our environmental and sustainability targets. The two main goals of COP27 are to protect the environment and restore ecosystems, in particular, the need for a global effort to confront climate related challenges. Positively, over the last year, NHSGGC has taken steps to advance the sustainability agenda within the organisation and we have made progress with a number of initiatives, ranging from clinical sustainability to staff and patients embracing more active forms of travel such as cycling to work. We have also continued our work to enhance green space developments on our sites and many of our teams are also taking part to help reach NHS Scotland's target of a net-zero 2040.

I would like to congratulate our Deputy Medical Director – Corporate, Dr Chris Deighan on his appointment to the position of Medical Director with NHS Lanarkshire. Chris is an consultant renal physician and has held his current position as Deputy Medical Director with NHSGGC since June 2019. During this time, he worked as our clinical lead for the clinical service review strategy: Moving Forward Together and he also played a critical role supporting the NHS Louisa Jordan team throughout the pandemic. I would like to thank Chris for all of his support during his time with us and wish him well for the next stage of his career. We will now take steps to recruit Chris' successor and will make an announcement about this in due course.

Our patient feedback this week is for the team at the Princess Royal Maternity Unit. Our patient writes: "On 03/11/22 I gave birth to our precious son, and from the bottom of our heart we cannot thank our Midwife Louise and Student Midwife Chelsey enough. Chelsey was so genuine and friendly and was able to answer so many of our questions in a way that made sense to us. She did so well at taking control in her stage of her learning and we felt comfortable during labour as she calmly guided us. Louise is an absolutely beautiful person. Her ability to gain our confidence and trust in such a short period of time was outstanding. As a nurse myself, she is one of the most personable healthcare professionals I have ever met and she has a beautiful aura around her that should be shouted from the rooftops! I felt like I was helped through labour by a friend rather than a stranger and my hubby felt the exact same way. We do not have the words to praise her enough and we can tell that, although Chelsey is a fantastic young Student Midwife in her own right, she will be fantastic and excel at her job when she qualifies thank to the guidance she has received from Louise. Thank you so much for helping to safely deliver our beautiful baby boy Lennox, and for the laughs along the way to make it easier. We genuinely will remember you forever." This is wonderful feedback for Louise and Chelsey. Thank you both and well done for the support and care you provided this patient and her family. Thank you.

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