

# Core brief

**Message from Jane Grant, Chief Executive**  
**(17 February 2023, 5.30pm)**

This week we have experienced a slight rise in the number of patients being treated for COVID in our hospitals. However, I am hopeful that this will be a short term rise and we will, in the coming days, see our patient numbers begin to fall once more. We have not seen any increase in our flu patient numbers, which is encouraging and suggests that we are towards the end of flu season for this winter.

I would like to make staff aware that last month we completed a Day of Care (DoC) audit which reviews our bed occupancy and supports our teams to drive forward patient discharges. This audit, which is in line with the request from Scottish Government to reduce delayed discharge of patients, resulted in an increased number of discharges from acute sites across our non-delayed patient community and a reduction in patient length of stay. I would like to thank all staff members who took part in the audit, your input has been particularly valuable.

Today, we welcomed the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care, Humza Yousaf MSP to the New Victoria Hospital, where he met with our staff and took the opportunity to announce a proposed £568 million pay award, which if agreed, would mean that Scotland-wide, Agenda for Change staff members at a Band 8a and below will be offered an average 6.5% increase in pay in 2023/24. This pay offer also includes the commitment to deliver a package of terms and conditions reform and as part of the proposal, the Cabinet Secretary noted that Agenda for Change staff would also receive a one-off pro-rata payment of between £387 and £939 depending on banding.

I would like to congratulate our team at the QEUH for being recognised as a leader in hip fracture care, after they won this year's Golden Hip award. The accolade, which is overseen by the Scottish Hip Fracture Audit group, is awarded to the Scottish hospital that meets the highest overall performance, measured against a set of 12 national standards of care for hip fracture patients, over a 12 month period. The award represents a real recognition of the multi-disciplinary approach taken to hip fracture treatment at all stages of the patient's care and as hip fracture is the most common serious orthopaedic injury to affect the elderly, with more than 6,000 patients admitted to hospital every year in Scotland alone, it is vitally important that we continue to encourage this approach across NHSGGC.

The nominations for this year's Excellence Awards are now in and I am pleased to tell you that we have received over 220, which span all seven categories. This is slightly higher than last year and I would like to thank all members of staff who took the time to submit a nomination and recognise their colleagues in this way. As with previous years, we will now review all submissions, shortlisting the best from each category, which will then be put forward to our team of judges, who will decide the winners.

This week, I would like to share some feedback from one of our patients who has been receiving treatment from our team at Dykebar Hospital. Our patient writes; "I recently received inpatient treatment at South ward, Dykebar Hospital for my mental health. I would just like to say a big thank you to all the nurses, healthcare assistants and the occupational therapy team, for the part they played in giving me my life back. Although I'm not 100% better, I am certainly on the right track (and medication) thanks to them. I feel that staff in mental health hospitals are often overlooked and do not receive the recognition that they truly deserve, as they often work under highly stressful circumstances and deal with patients with all sorts of illnesses and complex needs-who are often very mentally unwell.

I would also like to praise the staff for advocating for myself and undoubtedly other patients; for listening and really taking on board how the patient feels. What a great team, thank you so much." This is excellent feedback for the Dykebar team and I would like to thank you all for your commitment to your patients and the great treatment and support you provide. Thank you.

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