

Core brief

**Message from Jane Grant, Chief Executive
(2 June 2022, 12.30pm)**

I'm pleased to be able to share with staff that the number of COVID-positive patients receiving care in our hospitals continues to fall and I am hopeful that as we move into next week, we will see a drop to below 100 people diagnosed with the virus in the past 28 days. This downward trend also continues across our care homes and in the number of staff who are absent as a result of COVID. I realise that, collectively, we do continue to face challenges across health and social care, but we are certainly moving in the right direction and I would like to thank all staff for your patience and resilience. I appreciate all that you have done and continue to do for the benefit of your patients and your colleagues.

This week marks Volunteers Week, which is a celebration of the contribution volunteers make every day. Over the duration of the pandemic, we have been overwhelmed with the enormous amount of goodwill that we have been shown by the groups of volunteers who have supported our staff, services and patients. I am hugely grateful to everyone who has donned a red T-shirt over the past two years and made such a huge impact. To celebrate the important role our volunteers play, as well as our appreciation of their service, we will be profiling a number of them across our social media channels in the coming days – please keep an eye out for NHSGGC's posts and take the opportunity to add your own thanks.

I would also like to pay a special tribute to one of our staff who has been awarded the British Empire Medal in the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Honours. Maria Hewitt, who has worked as a nurse at the RAH as well as one of the COVID-19 vaccination team is being honoured for services to nursing. Maria's story is particularly poignant, as she qualified as a nurse in 2019, at the age of 55, after deciding on a change of career after 30 years in the police, beginning her NHS career on Ward 5 at the Royal Alexandra Hospital. When the pandemic hit, Maria returned from a post she held overseas and joined our nurse bank, working on COVID wards. Sadly, at this time, her husband John contracted COVID and died in hospital. Thanks to the support of her family, Maria was able to return to work, and at the beginning of 2021, she joined the team to support the NHSGGC vaccination effort. Maria now works as a dermatology staff nurse at the Vale and I am delighted that she continues to play an active role in the treatment and support of our patients. Congratulations to Maria, we are all very proud of you and grateful for your service.

This week, we welcomed Maree Todd MSP, Minister for Public Health, Women's Health and Sport to our Optometric Teach and Treat Centre at New Stobhill Hospital. The Minister met with our optometry teams and was shown the way in which we provide opportunities for community practitioners to undertake clinical placements to support their professional qualifications. It is really important that we take these opportunities to showcase the work we do in these areas and I would like to thank the staff who took the time to help facilitate the Minister's visit.

As staff will be aware, iMatter 2022 begin rolling out across NHSGGC recently and I was encouraged to see that many of you have already shared your feedback. I would like to thank the 65% of staff in the first cohort, who have taken the time to fill in the survey, and I would like to ask those who are yet to do so, to take a few minutes to share your views. We have also recently made iMatter available to our second cohort, which

includes both the North and South Sectors, Women & Children's, our Board Nurse Directorate, Diagnostics and Regional Services, eHealth and West Dunbartonshire HSCP teams. Your feedback plays a key role in influencing and enabling positive changes both locally and across our organisation, so please do take the time to have your say.

I would like to share some feedback from a patient treated at the RAH. Our patient was admitted via ED, had to undergo treatment for an ovarian cyst and is so appreciative of every element of her care. She said: "I am delighted with the care I received from each and every member of staff during a recent admission and surgery. I arrived at A&E in severe pain and the staff there were amazing, ensuring I was well looked after. I was then taken to X-Ray then surgical receiving, ward 20, CT then on to Ward 32 to await surgery. I wanted to thank everyone involved in my care including all in A&E, surgical receiving, Ward 20, Ward 32, theatres, X-ray and CT, all the students and porters. There are too many names to remember but I appreciate each and every one of you, particularly the nurse who held my hand as I received my general anaesthetic, this meant more than you will ever know. Also special thanks to the amazing Gyn team and the Consultant, Dr Sanobar Naheed, who performed my surgery, you are my hero!" This feedback shows the extent to which our teams work both collaboratively and compassionately with our patients. I would like to thank the teams at the RAH for their excellent work and for the support given to this patient at every step of her treatment journey.

Finally, I would like to thank our Estates and Facilities teams who have arranged for all of our hospital patients to receive either cupcakes or scones with butter, jam & clotted cream on the afternoon tea route tomorrow, enabling them to mark the Platinum Jubilee. I'm sure the gesture will be well received by those who are unable to spend the bank holiday weekend at home with their loved ones. I would also like to thank all of our staff who will be working during the holiday weekend, your support, as ever, is very much appreciated. Thank you.

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