

Core brief

**Message from Jane Grant, Chief Executive
(20 May 2020, 5.30pm)**

Another week has passed and our attention has increasingly turned to our strategy for the next phase of this pandemic.

While the public ponder what 28 May will bring for their lives, our staff – including Public Health and eHealth teams - have been working rapidly to develop and expand our contact tracing capabilities. This will no doubt be the backbone of our recovery and that of the rest of the country.

My thanks go to our teams who have shown flexibility in allowing staff to transfer to assist this process, including from sexual health services who are experienced contact tracers. This rapid deployment of resources and ability to find solutions has been the hallmark of our response to the COVID-19 pandemic. We have learned and adapted and we must take this positive learning forward as our recovery planning continues.

Other teams to show willingness for rapid change are our SATA teams. These are dedicated areas for patients to attend with symptoms related to COVID-19, which are set aside from ED to allow flow there to continue. Made up of staff from different areas, this is yet another example of staff working flexibly in this evolving situation.

In just a few short weeks, these new teams have given a great deal of reassurance in what has been an anxious time for many, and have shown courage in managing this new group of patients and disease.

One last thank you must go to our Estates Team, who have quickly stepped in to construct, fit out or adapt facilities to support the new services that are so rapidly being put in place.

Thank you to you all.