

Core brief

**Message from Jane Grant, Chief Executive
(24 February 2022, 10.45am)**

I would like to begin this week by congratulating the winners of the 2021 NHSGGC Excellence Awards, which were announced last night. I was both humbled and hugely impressed by the quality of nominations, the shortlist and the overall winners. I know that the judging panel and our Chairman had a particularly difficult time picking the winners.

I was especially pleased to see the breadth of shortlisted teams and staff members, who came from right across our organisation. While the event itself had to be held virtually this year, it was still a fantastic opportunity to shine a light on some of the amazing work that our teams have undertaken, despite the more challenging than usual conditions that we have all be working under over the past two years. Well done to all of our shortlisted teams and staff members, and a huge congratulations to our winners!

We also received some great news from the Digital Health and Care Awards this week, with our teams winning two awards. The West of Scotland Innovation Hub was awarded the Data Driven Innovation Award for its work in Pathology digitisation and AI, alongside partners iCAIRD. The team also saw success when they won the Industry Collaboration Award category, for the team's work on the Dynamic AI COPD information and monitoring tool, which has been life-changing for so many of our patients. This really is a fantastic achievement and my congratulations go to you all.

The First Minister announced earlier this week that legal restrictions relating to COVID will cease on 21st March 2022. As of the 28th February, the COVID-19 vaccination passport scheme will end. In addition, most requirements to wear a face mask indoors and on public transport will become guidance and therefore individual choice as to whether to wear one from 21st March. While this is a positive step forward for the majority of people, it is important that we remember that when rules are relaxed, this often has an impact on our services. We have seen in the past week that the number of cases in our local communities has risen and we have also seen a rise in cases in our hospitals and adult care homes. While it is important that we all can begin to live with COVID, it remains important that we are cognisant of the potential implications for our services as we transition to the new arrangements.

We are expecting further guidance from our Scottish Government colleagues regarding the impact of these changes within Health and Social Care settings and will work with our staff side colleagues through the Area Partnership Forum to ensure that our local guidance and actions take account of our need to minimise any risk to our staff, patients and visitors. In the meantime, we will continue to encourage visitors and the public to take the precautions of social distancing and wearing face coverings. We also expect our current guidance for staff who are working from home or working in a blended pattern to continue at this stage.

This week, I would like to share feedback that we have received from a patient using the Kirkintilloch Health and Care Centre, specifically Physiotherapist, Lorraine White, Occupational Therapist, Louise Wilson and Rehabilitation Support Worker, Mary Ann Kerr. Lorraine, Louise and Mary Ann work as part of the rapid assessment link with East Dunbartonshire Community Rehabilitation Team and have been praised by one of

their patients for being “so prompt and so good in visiting, advising and showing care after my recent accident and knee injury”. The patient went on to note that it was not simply about the various aids and exercises, which were provided by the team to support her recovery, but that their help and treatment also made such a difference by boosting confidence and ultimately supporting the patient to become mobile much earlier than she had anticipated, while also enabling safe recovery at home. The patient goes on to say that the support and care was not only appreciated by her, but also her husband, showing that successful recovery also has a real positive impact on the wider family of the patient. Thank you Lorraine, Louise and Mary Ann for your great support to this patient.

Finally, I would like to bid a very fond farewell to our Nurse Director, Dr Margaret McGuire and our Director of Public Health, Dr Linda de Caestecker. Both have played significant roles in improving the health of our population and the healthcare provided to them. Both too are exceptional, compassionate leaders who have contributed greatly to their respective fields of nursing and public health. They have supported the Board through some very challenging times, particularly over the past two years, and I will personally miss their support, wise counsel and general good humour, especially when times have been tough. Thank you to you both. I'm sure a huge number of our staff will join me in wishing you well for a very long and happy retirement.

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