

Core brief

Message from Jane Grant, Chief Executive (26 August 2022, 2pm)

I am pleased that we continue to see a declining number of COVID patients in our hospitals and more of our colleagues returning to work following a COVID related absence, which is very encouraging. We do continue to face challenges in relation to delayed discharges and I would like to thank our teams for your ongoing hard work to improve the current situation and ultimately take pressure away from our services. As we know, there is no quick fix to resolve this issue, but I am confident that we will continue to make progress in the coming weeks.

As you may be aware, some [policies](#), which were temporarily put in place during the COVID pandemic to enable us to better support staff are now being removed. This is a national decision, which has been taken because NHS Scotland is no longer classed as being on an emergency footing and therefore, we need to revert to more routine working practices. These policies include the guidance which was implemented to encourage home working where possible, the COVID Special Leave that was put in place to avoid staff using sick, annual or unpaid leave to cover COVID related absence, and the special provisions that were established to enable staff to carry over additional holiday days. I would like to encourage all staff to familiarise themselves with the changes so that you are aware of any areas which may affect you and your teams.

I would like to remind staff that the vaccination portal opens on Monday, which will enable you to book an appointment for your annual flu, and if eligible, COVID vaccinations. For a two week period, commencing on the 5th September, our clinics will be open specifically for Health and Social Care staff, so please try and make best use of this time, so that we can ensure you are prioritised. Please remember that only patient or service user facing staff will be entitled to a COVID vaccine, unless you are aged over 50, have a health condition which means you are entitled, or you are a carer. I would like to encourage all staff to take up the vaccination you are eligible for to help protect yourself, your colleagues, patients and your loved ones.

This week we welcomed Scotland's Chief Nursing Officer, Professor Alex McMahon, to meet with community teams in Clydebank. Professor McMahon visited Queens Quay Residential Care Home to meet with staff and residents and then on to Clydebank Health and Care Centre, where he was able to have a tour of the new facility, meet with nurses and social workers while also finding out more about the importance of the centre to the local community. I would like to thank all of the staff who helped to facilitate this very worthwhile visit.

This week, I would like to share with you some feedback we have received about the teams working in Clinic F at Stobhill. Our patient writes; "I would like to praise the staff within the Colposcopy clinic at Stobhill Hospital (clinic F). In May I attended for a colposcopy with Dr Dowell. I was extremely nervous, but Dr Dowell could not have been nicer. She talked me through absolutely everything, answering all my questions and really understanding how nerve-wracking this could be for someone. She took her time with the procedure and made sure every step of the way I was comfortable, that I knew what was going on and she took time after the procedure to answer any further questions I had. Pauline was assisting in my colposcopy and all I can say is, she is an angel! I was quite teary as I was nervous and had never had a

procedure like this, but Pauline calmed me down, spoke to me throughout, did not judge and was so understanding. Pauline even let me sit after the treatment, have a wee coffee and biscuit, and even then she made sure I was relaxed and that I felt okay. I think without both Dr Dowell and Pauline, I would have really struggled to continue the treatment but because of how kind, understanding and calming they were this helped me to continue. Both Dr Dowell and Pauline are a credit to the NHS and this should be recognised." I am pleased to be able to recognise both Pauline and Dr Dowell and I would like to thank you both for your kindness and support you showed this patient. Thank you.

Finally, I would like to thank all of the staff who submitted a nomination to the Scottish Health Awards. Overall, 122 nominations have been submitted to celebrate the work of NHSGGC staff, of which, 71 were received in the last week alone! The judging will take place in the coming weeks, with the award ceremony set to take place later in the year. I would like to wish all nominated colleagues the very best of luck!

Are your contact details up-to-date? [Click here](#) to check