

Core brief

**Message from Jane Grant, Chief Executive
(26 July 2024, 3.30pm)**

Today colleagues received a visit from Drugs and Alcohol Policy Minister, MSP, Christine McKelvie, at the Hunter Street Health Centre to find out more about the services provided to patients ahead of the submission of a new licence for a drug-checking pilot. The Minister was able to learn about the harm-reduction treatment services for patients and the positive impact on their care, while also receiving a tour of the Safer Drugs Consumption Facility (SDCF), which is due to launch later this year.



As part of our ongoing commitment to communicate effectively with staff, and in the context of the launch of the new StaffNet and integration with Microsoft 365, the Communications Directorate has launched a communications audit survey for all staff to provide feedback. The survey takes five minutes and will help us better understand how to communicate effectively with you, and what platforms to use. The survey link is available below. I encourage all staff to take the time to engage and help inform how we communicate moving forward.

<https://link.webpolsurveys.com/S/B99A68E3EA632623>

As part of our annual student intake recruitment, I'm pleased to announce we have now issued more than 700 offers of employment to new nursing graduates, many of whom already have significant experience of working within NHSGGC. Each year, our new intakes make a huge contribution to the care we provide, helping us future-proof our nursing contingent with highly-skilled staff, trained through some of the best courses available. I look forward to welcoming those who take up the opportunity to join us in due course.

I would like to highlight the launch of our Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) vaccination campaign this week to help protect people from this illness, which is the leading cause of emergency respiratory admissions to hospital in infants, and was also responsible for more than 500 hospital admissions in Scotland in adults over a 12-month period. Invitation letters have been sent to those eligible - starting with anyone aged 75 – 79 years old, alongside pregnant women. If you have family and

friends who are eligible, please take the time to discuss this and encourage them to get vaccinated. This is the first year the vaccine has been available and we are keen to make sure those who are eligible are aware of the opportunity to come forward to protect themselves and others. You can find out more information [here](#).

This Sunday marks World Hepatitis Day and, across NHS GGC, efforts continue to raise awareness of viral hepatitis, the importance of being tested, the benefits of treatment, and the vaccination for hepatitis B. Great progress has been made in Scotland towards achieving the goal of eliminating Hepatitis C, but there remains work to do, with an estimated 4,000 individuals thought to be diagnosed with Hepatitis C in Scotland who could benefit from treatment. As people often experience no symptoms, testing remains vitally important. Early diagnosis and treatment for hepatitis and also HIV, not only improves individual outcomes, it can also prevent onward transmission to others. Guidance for staff on testing for blood-borne viruses can be found [here](#). NES has also recently launched a [new online module](#) to support clinical staff in recognising and making an HIV diagnosis.

And finally, I'd like to share some warm feedback from a patient at the Beatson. Many thanks to the team who have looked after this patient:

“For the last 4 years, I have been treated by the team at the Beatson West of Scotland Cancer Centre, 1053 Great Western Road, Glasgow G12 0YN. Yesterday I was told I was being discharged from treatment as for some months no sign of cancer was being found in my blood checks or CT scans. As you will realise, this is a great relief and although I still have many years of check-ups to come, it is a joyous occasion for my family. Hopefully, this roller-coaster ride is now ending and for the first time in many years, I can now begin living again.

“I wish to give my sincere thanks to the following: Dr Tan, Dr McInerney, Dr Al-Salih, Dr James, my support nurses Cathy and Karen, my telephone buddies with updates Roisin, Julie Clark, any names I have missed, all the staff at the day clinic and treatment centre. Thank you for saving my life and giving me a future.”

It is important to share Core Brief with colleagues who do not have access to a computer.

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