

# Core brief

**Message from Jane Grant, Chief Executive**  
**(27 May 2022, 1.40pm)**

I am pleased to inform staff that, again this week, the number of people being treated for COVID in our hospitals is continuing to reduce. This steady progress is encouraging and I remain hopeful that as we move through the summer months, the number of people in our care as a result of the virus will decline further. Likewise, the number of delayed discharges and staff absences as a result of COVID-related issues will become much more manageable.

As a result of this and in line with our COVID recovery plans, we have been able to start scaling up planned, elective surgery, which will help to improve the quality of life for thousands of our patients each year. Theatre resources remain targeted to the patients most urgently requiring treatment, with our surgical and anaesthetic teams working together to ensure they are all cared for in the most appropriate setting. I want to thank all the theatre staff who have, in recent months, once again offered support in critical care and ward areas. Your support to those teams has been invaluable.

I was also pleased that we were able to take the decision to further remove visiting restrictions in our hospitals this week. I realise that this is a hugely welcome move for staff, patients and visitors alike and I have been encouraged from the feedback I have heard from staff as well as the support we have received from members of the public across our social media channels. The ability to see their loved ones more frequently can have a hugely positive impact on patient recovery and I would like to thank all of our staff who have helped to facilitate the changes that have been made this week.

Similarly, the changes to social distancing on our sites also brings about some positive change, enabling us all to begin to feel as though we are returning to a pre-pandemic normal. While it is important that we are starting to make these changes, we need to do so in a considered and gradual way. This is why it is important that we continue to wear masks in public and clinical areas and we encourage visitors to do the same. The priority for us all is to make these vital changes in the safest and thoughtful way possible, so I ask all staff to please be patient. Likewise, I recognise that some of our staff, especially those who have been working at home for much of the pandemic, may take a little longer to adjust to being back in a work environment more regularly, so I would ask that we are supportive of our colleagues as they make this transition.

Yesterday, we welcomed Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care, Humza Yousaf MSP to the Beatson to officially unveil a new MRI suite and £3.6 million MRI scanner, which we have been able to commission following a successful fundraising partnership between NHSGGC and the Beatson Cancer Charity. This new scanner will benefit patients from across NHSGGC and is capable of higher definition MR imaging, which is more accurate when targeting certain tumour types and allows our clinicians to work with an unprecedented level of precision. The new facility and scanning capability provides an exciting opportunity to further develop clinical services at the Beatson. It will also enable significant treatment benefits and better patient outcomes

for our population in the years to come and I am delighted that we were able to showcase that. My thanks to all of the staff who supported the visit yesterday, I look forward to hearing updates about your future success at the facility.

I would also like to inform staff about an event, organised by the charity Prostate Cancer UK, which is taking place on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> June in Glasgow. [‘March for Men 2022’](#) is a series of four fundraising events happening at locations across the UK to raise awareness of prostate cancer and encourage more men to undertake this important health check. As with any cancers, it is so important that we do all we can to catch and treat it early, so I hope that this event, and others like it, will encourage more people to come forward if they have any health concerns and have themselves checked.

Finally, I would like to share with you feedback from the family of one of our young patients who was treated at the RHC. The patient’s Mum writes; “I was with my daughter and she was riding her own bike and suddenly she fell off. I rushed to my daughter and I was shocked how I saw her. She had open eyes but no consciousness. In that moment there were many people calling the ambulance. My mind and my words were lost, it was a very traumatic moment. The ambulance arrived, they cared for my daughter, they tried to calm me even in that moment. Arriving at the hospital and every second for our family was incredible. The emergency team were trying their best to save our daughter’s life. Today, I am writing this summary of her story and I cannot believe that we are here today with her. This thanks to all the ambulance staff, emergency staff, PICU staff, surgeons (who are many and I am sorry that I do not know all their names) and especially the Major Trauma Coordinator team who are close to us, supporting us. I have no words, but we have fixed in our memory every face that has taken care of our daughter and we are eternally grateful. Our daughter’s RHC stay lasted several weeks and the Ward 3A staff took care of our daughter and us as a family. Endless gratitude to the physiotherapist team who collaborated for a healthier and faster recovery. The advice from the staff is that her recovery takes a long time but our time is also hers and our happiness that we are a family of four together gives us strength. Now I find it difficult to mention each of the staff, but thank you all without exception for all your care. Perhaps the medical team’s mission is to save life, but for the parents, our daughter and all those who were involved, it is a blessing.” This wonderful feedback, from a family who have experienced a particularly stressful and worrying time, but with such a positive outcome, really is testament to the extensive teamwork and first class care our teams were able to provide. Thank you all for your tremendous efforts to so effectively care and support this patient and her family.

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