

Core brief

Message from Jane Grant, Chief Executive

(29 July 2022, 11.20am)

I would like to begin this week by officially welcoming our new intake of junior doctors, who started working on our wards this week. 489 newly qualified doctors have now begun their induction with NHSGGC, ahead of the start of their first rotations across our services. This is the beginning of a two-year foundation programme in both hospital and primary care, where each of our new junior doctors will work across multiple areas of practice, following which, they will have the opportunity to decide their next career steps. It is wonderful to see so many new healthcare professionals start their careers with us. I would like to wish every one of our new recruits a very long and wonderful career with the NHS and thank you for choosing NHSGGC as the place to make a start to your career.



I am also pleased to note that again this week, the number of COVID patients has declined. This ongoing trend suggests that we are now past the peak of the most recent wave and are moving steadily towards a more manageable state. We also continue to see more of our colleagues returning to work following COVID-related absence, which is very encouraging and I hope something that will continue. I would like to remind any members of staff who are returning to work following a period of absence to seek appropriate support should you need it. There are a range of services available to you and you can find more information on our [website](#).

Staff will have seen the news concerning drug related deaths which occurred in Scotland during 2021, which was published yesterday. The statistics, published by National Records for Scotland (NRS), showed that the number of people who died of drug misuse last year decreased slightly for the first time in eight years. Drug misuse remains a significant problem across Scotland, and tackling drug deaths remains one of the Board's key public health priorities for 2022/23. I would like to thank all those who work with people affected by

drugs, supporting them through treatment and in recovery. Working with our HSCPs and Local Authorities we are able to offer a broad range of traditional and new innovative treatments to help tailor support and provide a patient centred care to individuals. In the long-run, this holistic approach to tackling the drugs crisis will help further decrease the number of people sadly dying as a result of drug misuse in Scotland. Thank you to everyone involved, you are doing a great job.

On the theme of innovation, staff may also have read the recent media coverage about the fantastic work being led by the CAR-T service within the QEUH. The service is the only one in Scotland, and helps provide cutting edge cancer treatment and a lifeline to patients who have not responded to other types of treatment, but in some cases, have then gone on to make a full recovery. Feedback about the service is hugely positive, an example of which is patient [Allan McLean's story](#). This work is a testament to the knowledge, expertise and commitment of our teams who look after our patients, and a reminder that NHSGGC remains a world leader in providing top-quality, modern care to patients.

This week, we have received some feedback from a patient receiving care and treatment at the Beatson. Our patient writes: "I was admitted to Ward B5 in November 2021 and was a patient there for five weeks. During that time I received first class medical treatment. But just as important I was supported throughout by the most caring and professional nursing staff, led by Senior Nurse, Lynsey. They turned a most anxious and distressing time into one of fun and laughter. Nothing was too much trouble and they went way beyond to ensure that all my needs were met. In my opinion everything comes from the top, and Lynsey must accept full credit for the efficient and caring way in which her Ward operates. She knew all the patients personally and was always accessible to listen and spend time with me. And for that I will always be truly grateful." Thank you to the entire nursing team at the Beatson for the fantastic work you do every day.

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