

Core brief

Message from Jane Grant, Chief Executive (5 January 2024, 3.30pm)

In my first message of 2024, I would like to wish all NHSGGC staff and our colleagues across our HSCPs a happy and healthy New Year.

The first week in January is always a particularly busy time for health and social care as services cope with the usual winter demands and the impact of the public holidays. I want to thank everyone who worked over Christmas and New Year, all those who worked in our hospitals and in community, social and primary care, including our GP Out of Hours teams who saw more than 11,000 patients over the two four-day holidays.

As part of our Winter Plan, we have now opened up additional winter beds at Inverclyde Royal Hospital, Brownlee, QEUH and GRI. Taken together with the additional winter beds which remained open last year, there are currently an additional 233 staffed beds to support the demands we face at this time. Other actions being taken include the introduction of boarding teams and a plan to expand the Outpatient Parenteral Antibiotic Therapy service at GRI and RHC. We also continue to promote messages encouraging people to use alternatives to ED, where appropriate, through our ABC campaign and seeking the support of families to help with the prompt discharge of their loved ones.

Colleagues will have seen Wednesday's Core Brief outlining the arrangements that have been introduced to reduce discretionary spend on a specific range of supplies. The items include printers, PCs, furniture, stationery and non-essential training. This will enable us to protect and prioritise spending on patient services. I know that there have been some concerns about how this will impact on staff. I would like to assure colleagues that this arrangement will have no impact on direct patient care. There will be no impact on infection, prevention and control processes or statutory mandatory training. If essential, staff will still be able to request items be purchased during this period through the central procurement department which will be able to ensure best value for money.

I appreciate that the combined challenges of winter and the tightening of budgets may not bring much cheer as we enter 2024. It is important however not to lose sight of all that is accomplished every day by NHSGGC staff. You continue to provide much valued care to thousands of patients on a daily basis for which they

are very grateful. Our teams also continue to ensure that our services run efficiently and effectively. There is no doubt that we will need to work hard to find ways of becoming even more efficient this year but through this there will also be opportunities to develop and improve our services further.

Finally, this week, I want to share some feedback from the husband of a patient who used our services over the festive period. My thanks too go to the team who cared for this patient.

“On Christmas Day 50 years ago I was with my wife in the Mat Unit of the RAH looking in amazement at our first born son. Little did I think 50 years later I would be sitting with my wife in the same hospital, she having been admitted with Atrial Fibrillation.

“The care and compassion she was shown from receptionists, nurses, auxiliaries, and doctors was awesome. There was understanding, humour and quiet reassurance from every single member of staff who interfaced with us. The NHS is the most valued and needed institution in our country. I am sure at times all medical practitioners feel over run but they sure don't show it. We are very grateful to them.

“We simply say thank you from both of us.”

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