

Core brief

**Message from Jane Grant, Chief Executive
(6 January 2023, 10.00am)**

In my first Core Brief of 2023, I would like to start by wishing all NHSGGC staff and our colleagues across our HSCPs a very Happy New Year. I hope it is both prosperous and healthy for you all.

As we take our first steps into the New Year, we continue to face very significant pressure across our health and social care services. This is primarily as a result of the ongoing impact of viral infections, combined with the number of patients seeking treatment across acute and primary care, and the challenge with patients delayed in their discharge, which continues to create difficulties for patient flow through our health and care system. We will continue to encourage families to collect their loved ones when they are ready to be discharged, to support our teams to have patients Home for Lunch. This, however, is only one mechanism and as such, we will do all we can to explore all pathways to relieve pressure on our services and teams. I would like to thank all of our staff for your ongoing support, to your colleagues as well as your patients and their loved ones. Thank you for your hard work and commitment, which is greatly appreciated.

Despite these challenges, it was heart-warming to read about the first babies of the New Year being born within NHSGGC, the first of which was at the Princess Royal Maternity Hospital at 12:11 in the morning of New Year's Day. The baby boy was followed swiftly by a further three births in the early hours at the PRM. Colleagues at our other maternity units were also busy, with two babies delivered by the QEUH maternity team before 01:00 and the first baby being born at the RAH just before 03:00 in the morning. As ever, our maternity teams have performed a sterling job, safely welcoming all of these new additions and supporting their families to enjoy their first few hours together in a safe and supportive environment. My thanks to all of our staff who were working hard over New Year period to provide care to our patients and service users across NHSGGC.

The New Year also brought with it some coverage in the press about the excellent examples of the way we use innovative technology within NHSGGC to provide life changing treatment to our patients. One such example is the ZeroG Gait and Balance System, a robotic apparatus where a patient is supported during therapy, automatically synchronising with their movements to help them walk and prevent falls. The system, which is the first of its type in Scotland, has enabled some patients to make progress towards regaining function in their legs and brings additional benefits, including the requirement of fewer staff to support individual patients to undertake their treatment.

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Our use of robotic surgery at the Glasgow Royal Infirmary has also been showcased in recent days, as we welcomed a news crew to observe the use of this surgery and the benefits it has for patients. The procedure, which has been in place at the GRI for around 18 months is already resulting in significant benefits. It allows doctors to use instruments that improve precision and recovery rates, reducing the amount of time patients are required to stay in hospital post-surgery by one to two days. This, along with other advances such as the ZeroG system, demonstrate why it is so important that we can continue to explore important innovations in patient care, and I would like to thank all of our teams who have been so open to embracing these new ways of working.

Our first piece of patient feedback of 2023 has been shared by a family member of one of our patients who was receiving care from our Older People's Service team at the New Victoria. The family member writes: "I would like to commend the staff in Ward 2 in the New Victoria hospital in Glasgow. My mother

was there for over 10 weeks and each and every one of them was so kind, caring and went above and beyond. I am forever grateful. The team was led by the amazing Sister Gallagher who also went above and beyond, she is definitely in the right profession. I cannot thank her enough for her kindness and care shown towards my mother and also the support given to me during a difficult time. You are all angels. Thank you so much." My thanks also to the team at the New Victoria for the support shown to this family. The compassion you have shown is clearly very much appreciated.

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