

# Core brief

**Message from Jane Grant, Chief Executive  
(7 January 2022, 4.30pm)**

First and foremost, I would like to wish all of our staff a very Happy New Year. I hope everyone managed to have some time with their loved ones over the festive period. For those of you who were working, many thanks for all of your work at this time.

I have been working closely with colleagues to respond to the current issues we are facing across health and social care, particularly in relation to ward closures and staff absences across our acute, mental health and community settings which is requiring us to constantly review our services and move to contingency measures in some areas.

The situation within our care homes also remains challenging in relation to staffing. We are keeping the situation under review and working closely with HSCP and Local Authority partners to determine the best course of action to identify and assign further resources where possible.

I also recognise that our EDs have been experiencing greater pressures in recent weeks and we are, once more, taking proactive measures to encourage members of the public to consider alternative treatment options, including utilising GP and community pharmacy services, calling NHS24 for support and where needed, attending our Minor Injury Units.

As staff will be aware, earlier this week, the First Minister announced changes to Scotland's COVID-19 guidelines. Most notably were the changes to the self-isolation guidelines for people who are classified as a close contact of an individual with COVID. This coupled with the changes to the rules for people who test positive for the virus, meaning that you can end self-isolation after seven days if you have no fever and record two negative lateral flow tests, which brings parity to guidelines across the UK. Given the number of requirements for health and social care staff, our HR team has developed an easy to use table which details the return to work criteria, including the requirement for a negative PCR test, and it can be accessed via [HR Connect](#). Please familiarise yourself with the detail so that you are aware of how the changes may affect you and your team. I would like to thank all of our staff who continue to provide excellent treatment and patient centred care to our patients, despite the ongoing difficulties we face.

Community infection rates and the subsequent number of COVID cases in our local communities continue to stand at a very high level and the impact of schools returning this week is not yet clear. However, we are working with the Scottish Government and Public Health Scotland to ensure our planning reflects the updated modelling. I realise the current situation is tough, but I would like all staff to know how much appreciated you all are. You are all doing a fantastic job and I am thankful to you all for that.

I would like to close with some very positive news; I am delighted to inform staff that two of our colleagues have been formally recognised and have received awards in the recent New Year Honours. Anne Doherty, who after being nominated by her colleagues, was awarded a British Empire Medal for services to Yorkhill Children's Hospital and to the Royal Hospital for Children and Dr Syed Ahmed, the Clinical Director for

Health Protection Scotland, who for many years was the Head of Health Protection at NHSGGC and made a very significant contribution to public health in Greater Glasgow and Clyde. Congratulations to Anne and Syed for their very well deserved honours and my thanks to you both for your ongoing commitment to our health and social care services. Thank you.

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