

Core brief

**Message from Jane Grant, Chief Executive
(8 July 2022, 2.55pm)**

As you will have seen from Wednesday's core brief, the number of COVID patients in our hospitals has grown significantly in the past two weeks. As of today, we currently have 461 patients in hospital with a positive diagnosis within the past 28 days. Staff absences also remain high with 945 of our colleagues off with COVID, and I know that the situation remains very challenging for colleagues.

This is putting pressure on all of our staff groups, including nurses. With regard to nursing, our managers, chief nurses and lead nurses are working together to try to reduce the impact of unplanned absences. We continue to have regular discussions with our Area Partnership Forum on the current situation and they are working with us to maximise additionality and helpfully raise matters which help us develop initiatives to support our staff. This includes a significant recruitment campaign, including a successful international recruitment drive, to recruit new staff as quickly as possible.

Despite this focussed activity, there are, unfortunately, times when we are working with less than optimal staffing levels due to absences and a lack of available supplementary staff, especially now we are in the holiday season and encouraging all staff to take their leave. The safety huddles that take place throughout the day ensure that any safety issues are escalated and addressed. However in these circumstances, I also want to remind colleagues that if you have any concerns or issues, it is important that you speak up and raise them with your line manager to resolve them as quickly as possible. You can also contact your Trade Union or Professional Organisation to help you. I encourage all staff to raise concerns and along with the above you can advise us of your concern through DATIX. If it's very personal to you please also contact our Human Resources team.

I also want to remind you of the range of services that we have in place to support your wellbeing, including the R&R hubs, the Staff Support Helpline and the Occupational Health counselling service. I know that everyone is working very hard in these challenging times to ensure our patients are well cared for. It is also important for you all to look after yourselves and so I would urge anyone who needs support to take it.

This week, I was delighted to join the Chairman in welcoming the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care, Humza Yousaf, to officially open Clydebank's Health and Care Centre. The stunning Centre, which opened in February, provides fantastic modern facilities for our patients and staff. As the centrepiece of the Queens Quay development situated on the former John Brown Shipyards, the £21.7 m facility is also hugely significant for Clydebank and the regeneration of the area.

I want to congratulate our dietitians who picked up the British Dietetic Association Digital Innovation award this week, recognising how dietitians across NHSGGC have embraced digital approaches to support nutritional care. Before the pandemic, the team were already working with eHealth on videos which would improve patient outcomes and this was accelerated when restrictions were introduced. The national award

recognises the quality of the content produced to support patients' nutritional care in hospital, in care homes, supporting self-care and living with long term conditions. You can see some of the videos for yourself here: [Dietetics - NHSGGC](#)

My congratulations also go to Dr Nashwa Matta from the Royal Hospital for Children who has been recognised with a prestigious award for her exceptional work in support of children's health. Dr Matta, Associate Specialist in Neonatology and Neurodisability, is just one of three medical professionals in the UK to receive a new Members' Award from the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health for her work, which promotes the recognition of the signs of stress in newborns in intensive care units and understanding infant language through their behaviour. Well done to Dr Matta and to our dietitians!

I am really pleased to share the news that following the success of the television documentary series, [Rescue: Extreme Medics](#), which covered the work of the Scottish Trauma Network, Channel Four has commissioned a second series. We expect that filming will begin this summer and will once again include our QEUH and RHC teams as well as those at NHS Grampian and colleagues from SAS and our other emergency services. Once again, this gives us a great opportunity to showcase the fantastic work of our staff and highlight the vital role of the Network.

Finally, I wanted to highlight some feedback received this week from an RAH patient who thanks the surgical team for the person-centred approach taken to treat her. "I would like to thank the staff who looked after me when I came in for breast lumpectomy. They were all very caring and attentive. I felt well looked after and safe in their care. In the ward were Charge nurse Jennifer Smyth, Staff nurse Amelia McCready, FY1 Katie Johnston, Anaesthetic Nurse Angela McGregor and Recovery nurse Pamela Adam. My surgeon was Jennifer Campbell and the breast care nurse is Fiona Irvine. I had breast cancer 13 year ago and was well looked after then but this was a much better experience, felt less clinical this time. I felt they were interested in me as a person and they took their time with me. However it also felt as though they were moving things along quickly. I would like to say the staff in the Breast Screening Unit in Glasgow were efficient and supportive as well. Thank you all." Well done to the team for this well-deserved praise.

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