

Core brief

Message from Jane Grant, Chief Executive
(24 June 2021, 10.45am)

The Scottish Government have launched the 2021 [Scottish Health Awards](#). The Awards provide a great opportunity to recognise and celebrate the work Health and Social Care professionals across Scotland. There are sixteen award categories, including for Innovation, Volunteers, Support Worker, Doctor, Nurse as well as the award for Unsung Hero. The closing date for nominations is the 26th of August, with the public vote taking place in mid-September.

Last year, I was delighted that six of the awards were taken home by NHSGGC staff or our local HSCP colleagues. We have an enormous amount of talent working within our teams and this should be celebrated, so I would encourage you all to consider nominating a colleague or a team who you think deserves to be recognised. The level of commitment shown by our staff on a daily basis is exceptional and I continue to be humbled by your dedication.

However, it is also important that I acknowledge how busy all of our services are currently. I realise that everyone is working exceptionally hard to treat our patients, support their loved ones and be there for your colleagues. Whilst the COVID-19 restrictions may be starting to ease, we continue to deal with the pressures associated with the pandemic, the challenge to continue remobilising services in a safe and efficient way and fulfil our commitment to person centred care. I know this is asking a great deal of our staff, and I am hugely appreciative of every one of you and your contribution to caring for our patients.

When we are faced with such challenging circumstances, we can often forget or not make enough time for ourselves. If you are feeling overwhelmed or feel you could benefit from someone to talk to, I would strongly encourage you to seek the help of our support services teams who can provide help and guidance.

I also want to reinforce the importance of staff being able to speak up when things are not working as they should. I view this level of staff feedback as a vital part of making sure that we operate in a safe and effective way for the good of our staff and our patients. This could be as simple as suggesting an improvement to working practices all the way through to raising important concerns about patient and staff safety. It's really important that all staff are able to share their ideas and concerns with their line manager, but I also want to ensure that all staff have the opportunity to seek other avenues should you need to, such as your Trade Union or Professional Organisation, or our own HR team. You can also confidentially raise a concern if you think the routes open to you are either inappropriate or have failed to address the issues you raised. I am fully committed to ensuring staff have the opportunity to speak up and to enable this, we have a team of people who you can speak with confidentially and all of their details, along with more information about our whistleblowing policy can be found on our [website](#).

Thank you.