

Core brief

**Message from Jane Grant, Chief Executive
(1 October 2021, 11.15am)**

As we reach the end of another particularly challenging week, it will be welcome news to everyone that we are beginning to see the number of COVID-19 cases in our local communities decrease. While we recognise that it will take time for this to have a positive impact on what we experience in our health and social care settings, I am hopeful that in the coming weeks we will start to feel the benefit and the pressures currently faced will, at long last, begin to subside. In the meantime, I remain grateful to you all for your tireless efforts and for your professionalism in the face of the ongoing challenges. Please make use of the range of services that we have in place within NHSGGC to support staff wellbeing and continue to look after yourselves and one another.

I would like to take the opportunity today to raise awareness of the continued efforts of Care Home and Care at Home staff, who have, over the past 18 months, been working in particularly challenging environments. These teams are critical to ensuring we continue to provide the best care for people with support needs, our older population and adults with mental health needs. Every day, staff provide care and support in a safe environment within care homes as well individual's own homes. However, the role of the staff providing these services is critical to ensuring that the correct care provision is in place to enable our patients to be discharged into community health care as soon as possible, something which is particularly prevalent given the current pressures within our hospitals at this time. We know that for many people, being able to receive care in their own home environment is a vital part of their recovery, which makes the role of Care Home and Care at Home teams an essential element of our health and social care services.

In addition to their existing role, Care Home staff are continuing to support our COVID-19 and flu vaccination programmes. Staff in these positions are a much needed resource to ensure that some of our elderly and more vulnerable patients and residents have access to the best level of protection possible, particularly as we move into the winter months, which we know is a very challenging time for our services.

As such, I would personally like to thank all Care Home and Care at Home staff. You have done a tremendous amount of work over the past 18 months, often in very challenging circumstances, yet you have continued to provide high quality care, with compassion and respect. Your efforts are very much appreciated. Thank you.

I would like to close with an important message for staff. It has been brought to our attention that anti-vax campaigners have scaled up their efforts to target schools in our area. The techniques being used are becoming more intrusive and upsetting to many people, the most recent of which was a survey sent using a fake 'NHS Vaccines' header, which has been sent to schools to reach children and their families. I know many of our staff are parents and this will be a cause for concern, so I would like to ask that you please remain vigilant, report any such material either to your child's school, local authority or to our Public Health or [Communications teams](#). We can see how vaccinations have had a significantly positive impact on the number and severity of cases of COVID-19 and we will continue to offer them to everyone who is eligible. The health and wellbeing of our local communities is of paramount importance and I would like to thank all staff who continue to play such an important role to deliver quality care to all. Thank you.