

# Core brief

**Message from Jane Grant, Chief Executive**  
(23 July 2021, 3.55pm)

Our services remain extremely busy and I know colleagues are working very hard to treat COVID patients alongside those requiring non-COVID emergency and urgent care. I very much appreciate everyone's efforts at this time, particularly when we are also experiencing higher levels of staff absence as colleagues take much-deserved annual leave and others continue to self-isolate as appropriate. This week, we have had the welcome news that COVID cases have reduced compared to the same period last week. I am hopeful this trend will continue and, in the coming weeks, the pressures we are facing will start to ease. My thanks go to you all for your continued professionalism and dedication to our patients.

Whilst we are seeing cases reduce, it remains as important as ever for staff to continue undertaking lateral flow testing (LFT) as recommended. This will continue to play a key role in ensuring we can identify cases quickly and take the appropriate action to stop the virus from spreading - now, and in the future - as services continue to recover.

On remobilisation, at the Acute Services Committee this week, we received an impressive presentation from Paul Jenkins, Clinical Director, on the work being delivered by the Orthopaedics service to recover from the impact of the pandemic. Like many surgical specialties, the service was impacted by the deployment of staff to support ICU activity, the redesignation of wards for COVID patients and the national pause on elective activity. The teams have worked together to develop a recovery plan for outpatients and inpatients using innovation, including Active Clinical Referral Triage (a more personalised referral process), virtual patient management and the expansion of 23 hour surgery in Stobhill and Victoria Ambulatory Care Hospitals, to enable them to continue to treat priority patients. Whilst many challenges remain, including the ongoing impact of COVID, the Orthopaedic service has embraced innovation and new ways of working and should be proud of their efforts.

Finally, further recognition is due this week to the teams involved in the design, commissioning and construction of Stobhill Elgin and Appin Wards. The project has scooped two prestigious awards, one at the Scottish Design Awards and the other at the recent Scottish Property Awards, both of which recognised the project as the Hospital Development of the Year for 2021. A huge congratulations to everyone involved.



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