

# Core brief

**Message from Jane Grant, Chief Executive  
(17 September 2021, 6.30pm)**

As staff are aware, we continue to experience significant challenges across our health and social care services. In response, we have further reduced our elective procedures to enable our teams to better manage the continued pressures we are facing. We will keep this position under review, however, in the meantime, our focus remains on our emergency, cancer, trauma and very urgent cases and these patients continue to be seen across all disciplines.

It is important to recognise that these pressures are not unique to us and our colleagues in the Scottish Ambulance Service also announced this week that they are facing similar issues. I wish to thank our staff who are actively supporting SAS colleagues at our acute sites despite the challenges they face themselves. Your contribution is greatly appreciated.

We are, this week, placing further focus on how people can access urgent care by launching a four week radio campaign to encourage patients to use NHS24. These adverts will be weighted towards weekends and the beginning of the week as we know this is when there is the most demand on our EDs. We are also actively promoting other alternatives to both emergency departments and the 111 service, including community pharmacies, optometry services and self-care and I hope this will encourage members of the public to consider all care options available to them.

Earlier this week, the decision was taken by the JCVI concerning the roll-out of COVID vaccine boosters and extending the vaccination programme to 12-15 year olds. This will enable NHSGGC to, wherever possible, deliver COVID and flu vaccinations to those who are eligible at the same time, including via our staff vaccination programme. A national portal has been designed for staff to register for COVID boosters and flu vaccinations and we expect it to go-live early next week. This will enable our Health and Social Care staff to put themselves forward and arrange a suitable time to be vaccinated over the coming weeks. We will ensure to keep you updated about when the portal becomes available and provide relevant information about how to register. As ever, I encourage all staff who are eligible to be vaccinated to do so.

Finally, would like to further acknowledge two groups of our staff who have, this week, received recognition for their efforts during the pandemic. Glasgow City HSCP's Homeless Health and Asylum Service who have been shortlisted for the People's Choice Awards at the Scottish Health Awards 2021 and the staff at Ward 3B at the RHC, who were shortlisted as finalists in the Team of the Year category at the Who Cares Wins Awards. I am exceptionally proud of both teams and would like to congratulate them all for their hard work and dedication to their patients. Thank you.

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