

**Message from Jane Grant, Chief Executive**

**(6 October 2021, 6.00pm)**

We are currently faced with unprecedented pressures right across the health and social care system and I know that our staff are working exceptionally hard in significantly challenging circumstances. I want to thank our staff for their continued commitment and the personal sacrifices they have all made throughout the pandemic. We will continue to support all staff to report issues and utilise the services in place to help their mental wellbeing. I want to ensure that staff are enabled to take their breaks and have sufficient rest periods, so we will continue to encourage all staff to support one another to take breaks when on shift and speak to their line manager should there be any barriers to taking time away from performing their role.

I would like to reassure staff that we recognise the issues they face on a daily basis and I remain hopeful that, as we are now starting to see a decrease in community cases, this will have a positive impact across our services, giving staff some much needed respite in the coming weeks.

NHSGGC works in partnership with all our Trade Unions and we value this relationship. We respect the different roles and welcome feedback from their members which, along with our own feedback, enables us to ensure we can continue to support our staff at work during this significantly difficult period. We are fully committed to working together to find solutions that will have a positive outcome for both our staff and our patients.

Ensuring we continue our commitment to continuous improvement, I would like to recognise the team responsible for the update to the TrakCare patient administration system, over last weekend. This was a significant piece of work, which was undertaken by the eHealth team and I would like to thank them for their efforts. I would also like to thank all of our staff who would have been accessing the system over the period for their patience and the support they gave to the eHealth team. By working together, we have been able to implement the updated system to the benefit of all users.

Finally, I would like to draw attention to World Cerebral Palsy Day, which takes place today. This awareness day is a great opportunity to celebrate diversity and give our support to both patients and staff who are living with the condition and we will be lighting up the QEUH green this evening to show our support. To all of our staff providing care to people with cerebral palsy, our staff members who have the condition themselves as well as colleagues who are working hard to raise awareness, thank you for your ongoing commitment to this important cause.

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