

# Core brief

**Message from Jane Grant, Chief Executive  
(8 October 2021, 5pm)**

As staff will be aware, the Scottish Government announced an additional £300 million to support health and social care services this week. This investment in services is welcome funding and is intended to support a range of key areas across health and social care. Given the particular challenges that are faced by our services and our staff currently, I am pleased that this funding has been pledged. Our senior team is working hard to ensure that the contribution for NHSGGC complements our ongoing winter preparations, as this will be so important in the months to come.

The Scottish Hospitals Inquiry heard further evidence from families this week. This remains a very difficult time for patients, their loved ones and our staff. For those of you have been affected by the issues being raised, we are here to help and I would encourage you to access support if you need it.

I would like to thank all eligible staff who have already come forward to receive their flu vaccination and COVID-19 booster. We are making great progress with this part of the wider winter vaccination programme and would like to encourage those staff who are yet to book their appointment to do so in the coming weeks. However, I also understand that for those of you who have received your previous COVID-19 vaccinations outside Scotland, including in other parts of the UK, that you are not, at this time, able to register through the national portal for your booster appointment. This issue is currently being resolved and if you are in this position, you should be able to register for your booster appointment by the end of this month.

I am disappointed to have to inform you that due to the ongoing prevalence of COVID-19 within our communities, we have regrettably agreed that the Chairman's Awards ceremony this year will be held virtually. We know that this will be disappointing for staff who have taken the time to submit a nomination and those who will ultimately be shortlisted for an award, but given the pressures on our services, we believe it is the right thing to do at this time. I am sorry that this is the course of action we have needed to take, but I have asked the Communications team to plan for an in-person celebration next summer, which should go some way to make up for it. In the meantime, we will be in touch with staff nearer the time of the virtual ceremony with details of how you can participate remotely.

Finally, I hope you saw some good news reported in the media this week regarding a new heart failure device, which has completed its initial trial period successfully at the QEUH. The device will revolutionise treatment by allowing patients to receive hospital care from the comfort of their own home, which should reduce the demand on hospital beds by removing the need for patients to spend up to 10 days on a ward. The device and drug combination is being trialled by Glasgow University Heart Failure Clinical Trial Team, supported by NHSGGC's Research Innovation and Pharmacy Teams and the treatment is now moving into its second stage of trial which will allow patients to use the drug and device in their own homes. I would like to thank all of our staff who have been supporting this work. It is hugely encouraging that we have been able to continue with this vital research despite the current challenges we face. Thank you.