

# Core brief

**Message from Jane Grant, Chief Executive  
(15 June 2021, 10.55am)**

I was delighted to see that John Stuart and Dr Kerri Neylon were recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours this year. John, who recently retired from his role as Chief Nurse in the North sector, was awarded an MBE for his contribution to NHSGGC and Kerri has been awarded an OBE for her contribution to Health and Social Care, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. I am extremely pleased for both of them as they are both very deserving of this recognition.

Last week marked six months since we administered our very first COVID vaccination, with nurse Paula McMahon being the first person in NHSGGC to roll up her sleeve. To mark the occasion and to celebrate reaching over one million vaccinations, cupcakes were delivered to our teams of vaccinators as a gesture to thank them for their outstanding efforts. I very much appreciate all that our teams have done to keep the vaccination programme moving, responding quickly and efficiently to changing demands and delivery pathways which has enabled us to be flexible and reach people as swiftly as possible. Thank you all for your continued efforts.

I would also like to thank those who participated in "What Matters to You" Day last week. So many of our staff took the time to note what matters to them and share their thoughts with colleagues and their managers in a really constructive way. It was great to hear some of your stories and see some of your comments on social media. Every one of our staff is essential to our organisation, so it is crucial that we understand what is important to you all. Thank you to everyone who took part.

We have, alongside other NHS Scotland Boards, launched a Pride Pledge in support of our LGBT+ and minority ethnic colleagues. All staff can [sign the pledge](#), which promotes a message of inclusion and support to people to speak up and challenge intolerance.

Alongside the pledge, we are proud to support the launch of the NHS Scotland Pride Badge. The purpose of the badge is to identify allies of the LGBT+ and minority ethnic communities, meaning that wearers of the badges are people who members of the community feel comfortable talking to, or approaching for support. I would encourage anyone who is keen to be involved, to please sign-up and show support to your LGBT+ and minority ethnic colleagues.

Finally, as you no doubt will be aware, the UEFA European Football Championship has commenced. I know that the football fans amongst us will be watching closely to see how our chosen teams fare. However, if you are joining in with any of the public events, or even if you are celebrating at home with friends and family, please do so safely. Remember to follow the COVID-19 guidelines and do all you can to keep yourselves and your loved ones safe. Large scale events like this can often see an increase in demand for our acute services, so please support colleagues by looking after yourselves if you are taking part in any events, and hopefully, celebrating! Thank you.