

Core brief

**Message from Jane Grant, Chief Executive
(15 October 2021, 10.45am)**

We continue to experience increased pressure across health and social care services within NHSGGC and while the number of COVID cases in our local communities is starting to slowly reduce, we still face significant challenges. As you will be aware, due to the presence of COVID, the continued number of community cases, and in order to follow our Infection Prevention and Control procedures, we have temporarily reverted to essential visiting in all acute wards at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, with the exception of maternity, gynaecology and mental health.

While we will keep the position under review, the intention, at this time, is to operate essential only visiting for three weeks. I am conscious of the disappointment that will be felt by our patients being cared for in the RAH and I would like to reassure them, and our staff, that this decision was not taken lightly. Rather, it is part of a risk-assessed approach to infection prevention and control in all hospitals across NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde to protect the health and wellbeing of our patients and staff. I would like to reaffirm my commitment, and that of the wider Executive Team, to taking required action to support staff and wherever possible, reduce pressures on our services, and my thanks go to all NHSGGC staff for their continued commitment to our patients and their loved ones. Your dedication is greatly appreciated.

Reflecting on the challenges we are currently facing across our services, I would like to offer my sincere thanks to our Domestic teams for your unwavering hard work. I recognise that you are working in particularly demanding circumstances, and have been for many months. Without your efforts as part of our wider NHSGGC team we would not be able to provide the quality of patient care that we do. Thank you for your ongoing diligence and support, it is very much appreciated.

I would also like to remind staff about the support services available to each you. If you feel you need additional help, guidance, or even someone to talk to about the issues you are facing from a work or personal perspective, I would like to encourage you to please take the opportunity to do. Staff self-help resources are available on our [website](#). Our Occupational Health and Chaplaincy team, who provide the Listening Ear service, are also available to offer support. It is really important that we all look after our mental wellbeing, so please continue to support one another to do so.

I would like to thank all staff who took the time to submit a nomination for our upcoming Excellence Awards. We have received around 200 submissions, which are currently going through the shortlisting process, ahead of judging in the coming weeks. This is a great opportunity to showcase the exceptional work that has been undertaken in the past 12 months, and given you have managed to do so during a pandemic makes it even more special, so I would like to congratulate everyone who is the focus of a nomination this year.

I would like to take this opportunity to formally welcome all of our new nurses, who have officially joined NHSGGC in recent weeks. More than 650 newly qualified nurses and midwives have joined us as part of this year's intake, which is a great achievement. While a number of you have already been with us for a

period, having started earlier than usual, it is fantastic to see so many more of you arrive on our wards. Welcome to the team!

As we move closer to the start of the COP26 Climate Change Conference taking place in Glasgow, I would like to draw your attention to [additional information](#) which has been produced to keep staff informed about the likely impact on transport and other essential services in the City. I would like to encourage staff to familiarise yourselves with the information available which includes an video that details travel restrictions over the period, so that you can plan ahead for the duration of the conference.

Finally, I would like to offer my congratulations to Kathy McFall in NHSGGC's Medical Illustration (MI) team, who has received a rare and highly prestigious Honorary Fellowship from her profession's governing body, the Institute of Medical Illustrators. The Institute sets and maintains standards for the medical illustration profession, bringing together the disciplines of clinical photography, medical art, illustration, graphic design and video within healthcare. Kathy leads our highly thought of MI team, who have produced some outstanding work, particularly during the past 18 months, to help us tell the story of our staff and patients during the pandemic. Well done, Kathy on your well-deserved accolade.

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