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October 2025

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Message from Neil McCallum

Hello everyone,

Welcome to the October edition of the North Sector Newsletter.

Earlier this month, we shared an important GGC Way Forward update for the North Sector. This included a joint message from myself and Donogh Maguire, and outlined key developments across Safe Pathways, Safe Staffing, Safe Environment, and Whole System Improvements. These updates reflect our ongoing commitment to delivering safe, effective, and person-centred care — and I encourage you to take a moment to review the latest progress.

This month's newsletter also highlights the power of stories and the strength of our community. From celebrating Black History Month to marking World Kindness Day, we're reminded of the values that shape our culture and the importance of recognising every voice across our sector.

We've had plenty to celebrate too. AHPs Day gave us the chance to acknowledge the incredible work of our Allied Health Professionals, while the success of the first Clyde Falls Forum during Falls Awareness Week showcased the innovation and collaboration driving improvements in patient safety. Our Endoscopy Team also raised an impressive £438 for Macmillan — a brilliant example of compassion in action.

We've also welcomed over 500 newly qualified nurses and midwives into the NHSGGC family, and their stories — including one particularly inspiring journey at GRI — remind us of the resilience and dedication that define our workforce.

Thank you, as always, for your continued commitment, compassion, and teamwork. Your stories and feedback help shape the future of our sector.

Take care,

Neil

GGC Way Forward - North Sector Update



Earlier this month, we provided a GGC Way Forward update for the North Sector. This included a message from Neil McCallum and Donogh Maguire, updates on Safe Pathways, Safe Staffing, and Safe Environment, as well as an update on Whole System Improvements.

Click the button below to review the most recent update:

[Click here to view the most recent GGC Way Forward - North Sector Update](#)

Powerful Voices, Shared Stories: Black History Month 2025



On Saturday 25 October, the BME Network hosted a Black History Month Celebration at Roystonhill Community Hub, bringing together colleagues, community members, and guests, including NHSGGC Chair, Lesley Thomson, for an evening of reflection, connection, and cultural pride.

This year's theme, "Building Futures from the Past and Standing Firm in Power and Pride," set the tone for a powerful programme that honoured heritage while looking ahead to a more inclusive future.

Highlights from the Evening:

Inspiring Speakers shared personal reflections on identity, resilience, and leadership:

- **Clementine Ewokolo Burnley**, poet and facilitator, moved the audience with her reflections on belonging and creative expression.
- **Dr Adebayo Aibinu** offered insights into community empowerment and the importance of representation in healthcare and education.
- **Ishaku Ajibauka Bitrus**, NHSGGC Healthcare Chaplain, spoke about spiritual resilience and the role of cultural understanding in compassionate care.

Cultural Performances celebrated Afro-Caribbean traditions through music, dance, and storytelling, creating a joyful and inclusive atmosphere.

Community & Connection were at the heart of the event, with attendees engaging in meaningful conversations, building new relationships, and reaffirming the importance of diversity and inclusion across NHSGGC and beyond.

The event was a powerful reminder of the richness of Black history and the importance of creating spaces where all voices are heard and celebrated.





World Kindness Day - Thursday 13th November



On Thursday 13 November, NHSGGC will celebrate World Kindness Day 2025. As part of our ongoing Civility Saves Lives campaign, the day is aimed to be a powerful reminder of the impact that small acts of kindness can have in the workplace.

In our recent staff survey, over 85% of colleagues said that kindness is important at work—yet one in ten reported not feeling appreciated. World Kindness Day gives us the opportunity to change that narrative, one kind gesture at a time.

GRI Events

In the North, we'll be hosting two events at GRI. Join us at our stall in the Surgical

Block from 10am to 11:30am or the Library (Queen Elizabeth Building) from 11am to 3pm, where you can pick up kindness resources, share your stories, and connect with colleagues.

Everyone is welcome, so let's make kindness visible across GRI!

Six Weeks of Kindness

In the lead-up to the day, we launched the Six Week Kindness Challenge, encouraging teams to take part in weekly activities designed to foster a more compassionate culture. Here's a look back at some of the highlights so far:

Week 1: Recognise and Celebrate Colleagues

Staff were invited to nominate kind and compassionate colleagues for recognition, with heartfelt stories shared across departments.

Week 2: Small Acts of Kindness

From surprise coffees to kind messages and kindness bingo, teams embraced the power of everyday gestures.

Week 3: Team Togetherness

Kindness Graffiti Walls and Sunshine Boxes popped up across NHSGGC, creating spaces for positivity and encouragement.

Week 4: Focus on Your Own Wellbeing

Staff took part in Wellness Wednesdays, Active Staff classes, and mindful walks to recharge and reflect.

Week 5: Taking Kindness Online

Virtual praise, GIFs, and online coffee chats helped spread kindness across digital spaces, reminding us that compassion isn't limited to face-to-face interactions.

Whether it's a cup of tea shared with a colleague, a thoughtful message sent

online, or a moment taken to check in with someone, World Kindness Day reminds us that kindness is contagious—and it starts with each of us.

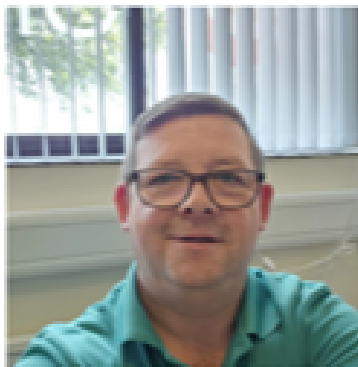
We encourage everyone to take part in World Kindness Day, including attending our events at GRI. Let's build momentum and continue to build a workplace where civility and compassion thrive.



NHSGGC has delivered a professionally developed Civility Leads Training, and we have some of our very own Civility Leads in the North!



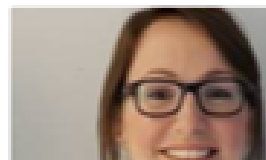
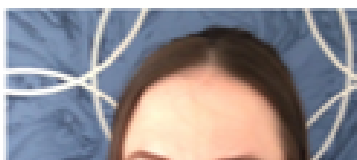
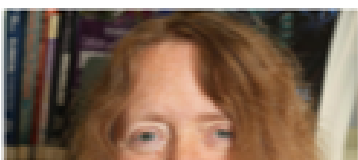
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Celebrating AHPs Day 2025: Recognising the Impact of Allied Health Professionals Across NHSGGC



Tuesday 14th October marked AHPs Day 2025, a global celebration of the diverse and vital contributions made by Allied Health Professionals (AHPs) to health and social care. This is an opportunity to take a moment to celebrate, appreciate, inspire and connect with our AHP colleagues.

AHPs include a wide range of professions—art therapists, drama therapists, music therapists, podiatrists, dietitians, occupational therapists, prosthetists and orthotists, paramedics, orthoptists, physiotherapists, diagnostic and therapeutic radiographers, and speech and language therapists—all of whom play a crucial role in delivering high-quality, person-centred care.

This year's theme focused on the impact of AHPs on quality and safety, and how their work supports Scotland's Health and Social Care Service Renewal Framework. AHPs are central to leading change by:

- Shifting care closer to home
- Redesigning hospital dependency
- Delivering person-led, community-based rehabilitation

Thank you to all our AHP colleagues for the incredible work you do every day.

Celebrating the success of the 1st Clyde Falls Forum: Falls Awareness Week 2025



We're thrilled to share the success of the very first Clyde Falls Forum, held on Wednesday 17 September 2025 as part of Falls Awareness Week. This inaugural event brought together a vibrant community of professionals, practitioners, and local stakeholders committed to reducing falls and improving wellbeing across Greater Glasgow and Clyde.

A huge thank you goes to our speakers, workshop facilitators, and of course, all attendees who made the day such a valuable and engaging experience. Your input, energy, and expertise made the forum a true success.

What the feedback told us

We're delighted to report overwhelmingly positive feedback from attendees:

- Over 90% of responses rated sessions and workshops as "Very satisfied".
- The average likelihood to recommend the event was an impressive 9.8 out of 10.
- Overall satisfaction scored a near-perfect 4.86 out of 5.

Attendees particularly praised the informative and interactive nature of the forum, with standout highlights including the variety of topics, engaging workshops, and a diverse range of speakers.



Suggestions for improvement were constructive and helpful, including calls for:

- Better group separation and reduced noise during workshops
- More community-focused content

We're taking all this feedback on board as we plan for next year – thank you for helping us shape an even better event.

Save the Date – 2nd Clyde Falls Forum!

We're excited to announce that the 2nd Clyde Falls Forum will take place on

Wednesday, 23 September 2026.

Planning is already underway, and we look forward to sharing the programme with you in the near future.

Thank you again to everyone who contributed to making the 1st Clyde Falls Forum such a success. Let's continue working together to reduce falls and support healthier lives in our communities.

Sweet Success: Endoscopy Team Raises £438 for Macmillan



On 30 September, the Endoscopy Unit at GRI swapped scopes for spatulas as staff came together to host a bake sale in support of **Macmillan Cancer Support**, raising an impressive **£438**, nearly doubling last year's total of £246.

From sweet potato cupcakes and iced gingerbread to salted caramel shortcake and a show-stopping chocolate hedgehog cake, variety and creativity were on display. Homemade fudge and large celebration cakes added to the sweet

spectacle, drawing in staff and managers from across departments throughout the day.

The team's motivation for organising the event was deeply rooted in their daily work. "A great proportion of our patients are either undergoing investigations to diagnose cancer, having procedures to help stage cancer for treatment planning, or receiving treatment for their cancer in our unit," a team member shared. "This includes patients with upper GI, colorectal, hepatobiliary and lung cancers."

Seeing colleagues from across specialities come together to support the cause was a highlight of the day. "It was lovely seeing many staff from various teams and specialities coming to our sale and supporting Macmillan, given the integral part they all play in the patient's cancer journey."

The team was thrilled with the final total raised. "To have almost doubled last year's total, the team feels very proud to have achieved this. We play such a small part in the patient's journey from our work in Endoscopy and are delighted that the money raised will go some way to helping patients and their families in other ways, through the work of Macmillan."

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who baked, bought, and supported the event.

Sunshine on a Dull Day: How Art Brings Hope to Dialysis Patients



Earlier this year at GRI, creativity brought light to what can feel like routine and challenging days. The exhibition “Sunshine on a Dull Day” showcased artwork created by patients in the renal dialysis unit. This was delivered by Art in Hospital and supported by Creative Scotland and NHSGGC, with special thanks to Glasgow Renal and Transplant Unit Endowment and friends of Glasgow Royal Infirmary, who supported the exhibition.

One of the standout pieces, and the inspiration for the exhibition’s title, was created by patient Donna McCartney. Her drawing, *Sunshine on a Dull Day*, featured a vibrant vase of yellow daffodils set against a serene blue background, alongside a dialysis poster symbolising the daily restrictions of treatment. This juxtaposition told a powerful story: even amid medical challenges, creativity could bring warmth and hope.

Donna described being part of the project as “a delight” and “overwhelming.” She

credited the encouragement of Art in Hospital for helping her rediscover her passion for art:

“The encouragement from the Art team was magnificent, which helped me produce the art piece that I drew, Sunshine on a Dull Day.

“On their Art trolley was a vast amount of items, such as books, fresh/dry flowers. I instantly chose fresh daffodils due to their bright, cheery yellow. At first, I focused only on the flowers, but then I thought, those daffodils are like a self-portrait of me being bright and cheerful, with my background showing dialysis and daily restrictions.”

For Donna, art provided a welcome distraction. “Taking part was enjoyable and took your mind off the treatment for a while,” she said. “It couldn’t totally, because of alarms and monitors, but the drawing made you eager to fulfil and satisfy the piece you were producing. Chatting to the Art team was a bonus too.

“I must confess that using pastels was a challenge, but I managed pretty well. When it came to writing words, pastel pencils made it far easier.”



The moment Donna saw her artwork featured as the main piece of the exhibition was unforgettable, saying, "I was overwhelmed at the amount of interest my art has had, it was an absolute honour. To name the exhibition after my drawing and use it as the main piece was amazing.

"It kept my mind free from what I was going through and brought great pleasure. This experience would help a lot of inpatients break up their day.

"It was also nice to hear how other patients felt the same about this helping their

mental state. Even nursing staff joined in during breaks, which was great.”

Donna hoped viewers saw more than just bright colours. “Look beyond the cheerful colours and see the restrictions, the whole picture of me,” she noted. “I’m that main feature of being cheery and warm, but alive because of dialysis. That’s why I named it Sunshine on a Dull Day.”



Administration Awards 2025/26



We're thrilled to announce that nominations are now open for our **Admin Awards** – a chance to shine a spotlight on the incredible work of our administration staff across NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde.

Every day, our admin colleagues go above and beyond to support patients, teams, and services. Whether it's a quiet act of kindness, a brilliant idea that made a difference, or consistent excellence in their role, this is your opportunity to say *thank you* and celebrate those contributions.

Nominate someone who inspires you.

It only takes a few minutes to complete the Admin Awards Nomination Form, and your nomination could mean the world to a colleague.

[Click here to submit your nomination](#)

Let's ensure the amazing work happening behind the scenes receives the recognition it deserves.

The finalists & winners will be announced at our Professional Administration Conference Event on **Thursday, 11th June 2026** at QEUH Campus - save the date!

More than 500 newly qualified nurses and midwives join NHSGGC family



NHSGGC has welcomed more than 500 newly qualified nurses and midwives this month, further enhancing the health board's ability to provide the best possible patient centred care.

This year's graduate intake will be joining teams in all NHSGGC hospitals and in the community across all six Health and Social Care Partnerships.

This significant intake spans all fields of nursing and midwifery, reflecting NHSGGC's continued commitment to investing in the future of its healthcare workforce and ensuring the highest possible standards of care for patients across its hospitals and community services.

NHSGGC remains dedicated to nurturing and developing its nursing and midwifery workforce through ongoing education, mentorship and professional support as they transition into practice.

Throughout this month, the new nurses and midwives are enjoying induction events, meeting their new colleagues and being introduced to their new roles.

Professor Angela Wallace, Nurse Director at NHSGGC, said: "On behalf of everyone at NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, I would to welcome all our new nurses and midwives.

"I know all of them will be eager to meet their new colleagues and to settle in to their new roles, and I look forward to working alongside them as they embark on this exciting first phase of their careers.

"This latest intake is testament to NHSGGC's commitment to ensuring services operate at the highest standard. Strengthening the workforce is a key priority for NHSGGC and our nurses and midwives are the heart of our services.

"Their skills and previous on-the-job training will undoubtedly enhance the quality of care we provide and I look forward to the positive impact they will have on the health and wellbeing of our communities."

One person who knows better than most how this year's new colleagues will be feeling is Leah Holmes, a nurse who joined the NHSGGC family in last year's

intake.

Leah, 24, from Glasgow, joined Older People's Services on Wards 32, 35 and 38 at Glasgow Royal Infirmary last year, and she feels like she's meant to be there.

"It's challenging, but I really enjoy it. I feel like I can get into the minds of elderly people," she said. "In fact I've always been like that – even when I was six or seven. I sometimes feel I can relate more to older people than other 24-year-olds."

And Leah has a little bit of advice for this year's newly qualified nurses – be prepared to be interrupted!

"Looking back, it's the one tip I would really have appreciated – there are lots of demands on your time and you need to just get used to that," she said.

"That bothered me at the beginning, but you come to realise that's just the nature of the job – if you're prepared for that and can carry on you'll be completely fine. In fact it's the variety that makes nursing so great.

"Oh, and it's definitely worth it!"

'Never give up – if I can do it so can you'



‘Never give up – if I can do it so can you’: mum, 42, encourages others to follow their nursing dream as she joins NHSGGC family

A 42-year-old mum-of-two who raised her children largely on her own and overcame her doubts to become a nurse, is encouraging others to follow in her footsteps and pursue their dreams.

And she has just one message: “Never give up.”

Jaspreet Deerhe, 42, from Bishopbriggs, is one of more than 500 newly qualified nurses and midwives to join NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde in the past few weeks – and she hopes her story can be an inspiration to others who find themselves in her position.

Jaspreet moved from the USA when she was a teenager and married young. She had two sons and she worked in care as the boys grew up.

But all the time she knew she wanted to do more, and as her marriage ended she

decided to take the plunge.

“I wanted to work in healthcare,” she said, “but my confidence wasn’t great as I’d been out of education for a long time.”

But those doubts didn’t stop her – first she completed an access course at college and then it was off to university.

“It was strange at first – in fact some of my fellow students were younger than my children. I was shocked at how important computers had become and I often felt out of my depth – but I was certain this was the place I needed to be,” Jaspreet said.

“There’s no pretending that it wasn’t hard work. There were times when I thought I couldn’t do it – when others said I wouldn’t manage – but I didn’t give up.

“All I knew was I wanted to help people. I needed to make a difference to people’s lives, and that kept me going when things got tough.”

Jaspreet – or Jazz as her new NHS GGC name badge, worn proudly on her Staff Nurse uniform, says – now works in Ward 20/21 rheumatology/acute medicine at Glasgow Royal Infirmary, and all her struggles have paid off.

“All I can say to anyone who’s in my position, and maybe thinks they can’t manage it, is please, have courage. If you can push yourself, you can make it.

“You might doubt yourself and tell yourself you’re not capable. Others might say you can’t do it.

“But please, don’t give up. Have confidence in yourself, and keep going.

“You can do it – like I did!”

NHSGGC welcomes nurses of all ages and all backgrounds – and Professor Angela Wallace, Nurse Director at NHSGGC, thinks Jazz’s story shows that nursing can be a rewarding career for everyone.

She said: “I would like to welcome all our newly qualified nurses and midwives to the NHSGGC family.

“As Jazz’s story makes clear, age is no barrier to becoming a nurse, and I would encourage anyone who thinks they can make a positive contribution to this wonderful profession, to take the plunge and, as Jazz says, go for it.”

Sandra O’Neil nominated as Health and Wellbeing Champion for North West Glasgow



We’re absolutely delighted to share the fantastic news – our very own volunteer Sandra O’Neil has been shortlisted for the Glasgow Times Community Champion Awards 2025, in the category of Health & Wellbeing Champion of the Year (North West)!

This award celebrates individuals who go above and beyond to make Glasgow a better place to live, and Sandra's nomination – made by members of the public – is a testament to the incredible impact she's had in our community.

Sandra's reaction said it all: "I am gobsmacked, I'm sure there are other candidates much more worthy. I am absolutely thrilled!"

Sandra previously promoted NHSGGC's call for more volunteers to join Stobhill by sharing her story. You can look back on this here: [Calls for Volunteers at Stobhill from former NHS worker - NHSGGC.](#)

North Sector Support & Information Services



The Glasgow Royal Infirmary Support & Information Service is based on the ground floor of the Queen Elizabeth Building in GRI.

This service is open Tuesday to Thursday 10am - 4pm, and Friday 10am - 3.45pm.

Stobhill Support & Information Service is based on the ground floor atrium.

This service is open Tuesday to Thursday, 10am - 4pm.

These services are here to support all patients, carers and staff who use our hospitals.

They can offer support in a variety of non-clinical matters, helping to signpost people to the most appropriate service that matters to them.

Some examples of services they can provide:

- Money Advice (Benefits, Income Maximisation Checks etc)
- Crisis Home Energy Services - support to anyone struggling with home energy matters
- Signposting to carers support services
- Two day Emergency foodbags for vulnerable patients going home
- Signposting to Community Support Services

These are just a few examples of ways they can support.

Everyone is welcome to drop in, say hello, and find out more about what they do.

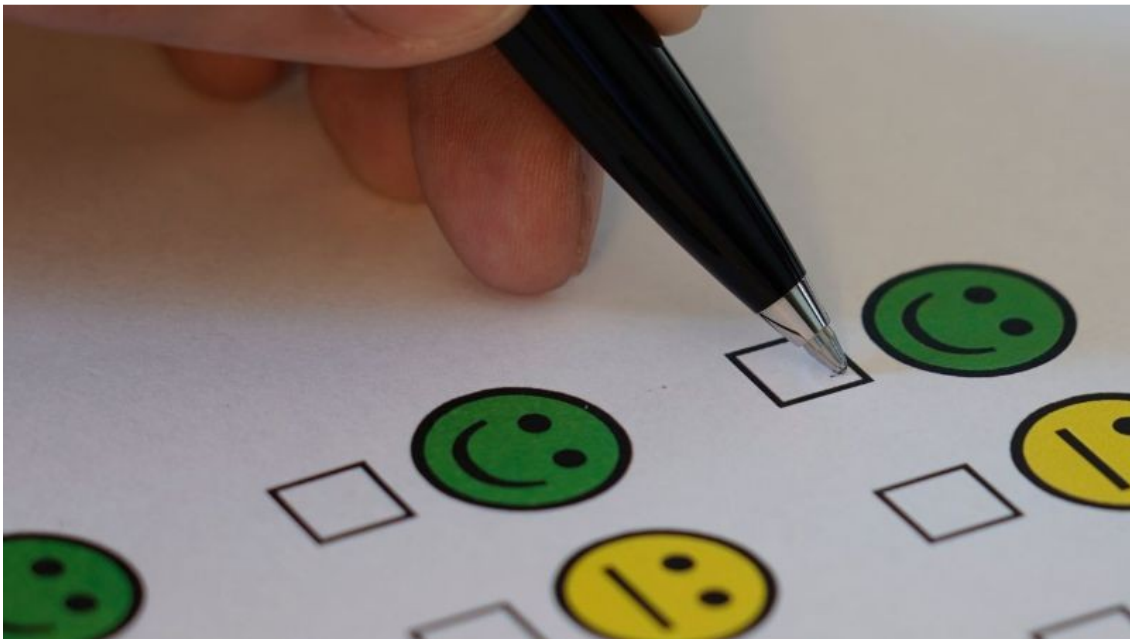
You can also email them with any enquiries at ggc.sis@nhs.scot or call 0141 531 9127 (GRI) / 0141 355 1527(Stobhill).

Upcoming November Dates

- [November](#)
- [3 - 7 November: Stress Awareness Week](#)
- [13 November: World Kindness Day](#)
- [10 - 14 November: Anti-Bullying Week](#)
- [13 - 19 November: Trans Awareness Week](#)
- [17 - 23 November: National Self-Care Week](#)

- [19 November: International Men's Day](#)
 - [25 November - 9 December: 16 Days of Action Against Domestic Violence](#)
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Your stories and feedback



We want to hear from you!

We want to highlight all the amazing and dedicated work going on throughout the North sector. No matter how small you think your success or your story might be, please let us know. It could be about you, your colleagues, your team, or anything within the North sector.

Either contact your line manager with your story, who can contact the newsletter team on your behalf. Alternatively, [email us](#) and be sure to copy them in.

We also want your feedback. Is there something you want to see more in the

newsletter? Or something you'd recommend we change? Big or small, send us your feedback by clicking the button below or [clicking here](#).

[Click here to submit your feedback](#)