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NHSGGC - Official



May 2026

Topics in this Newsletter:

- Acute Services - North Sector | Excellence Awards 2025/2026
- International Nurses Day - Celebrating Our Nurses across NHSGGC
- NHSGGC celebrates excellence in medical research at 2026 St Mungo's Awards
- GRI teams discuss challenges and successes in ED, Orthopaedics, and Older People's wards
- Mental Health Awareness Week - Staff wellbeing hub for acute services
- In Pictures - Dementia Café
- Fantastic Fundraising for Alzheimer Scotland at Lightburn
- From Halifax to the Highlands: A Transformative Physiotherapy Journey in Scotland
- USA students visit to GRI
- Help Shape Our Leadership Café Sessions
- North Sector Support & Information Services
- Your stories and feedback

Acute Services - North Sector Excellence Awards 2025/2026

Volunteer of the Year

Tony O'Hara:

Tony is an exceptional NHS volunteer whose journey embodies the power of recovery, compassion and giving back. Tony was once a patient in Critical Care, has volunteered since 2023. Tony's journey powerfully illustrates a transition from recipient of care to trusted partner in care, enriching services through lived experience and compassionate contribution.

Sheena

Sheena has been a star throughout 2025 and 2026. Sheena has been recognised for supporting patients and relatives especially within Ward 4. Sheena's kindness shines through and has been recognised for her dedication and compassion.



Innovation of the Year

Dr Kirsty Colquhoun Frailty Surgical Pathway

During System Reset, Dr Colquhoun and her team worked hard to demonstrate the effectiveness of an initiative-taking frailty sweep of patients on surgical wards. Dr Colquhoun has undertaken a test of change to demonstrate that early geriatrician input to patients in surgical wards improves measures related

to reduced surgical length of stay and polypharmacy. All excellent for sustainability and value whilst also improving outcomes and Quality of life for patients.

Team of the Year

The Block Room Team

The Block Room Team at Stobhill is a multi-disciplinary team who work hard to improve and innovate a dedicated anaesthetic block room service for day case upper limb orthopaedic surgery. The team continues to improve access to quality-of-life surgery for high-risk patients, reducing waiting times by developing a pre-op assessment model. This has led to a fantastic service which provides an amazing and safe experience for patients.



Special Recognition Award

A special award is given to the individuals involved in the response to the fire within the general surgery and ortho wards. The response team composed of staff from different roles, departments, and experience levels, worked together professionally during a critical fire emergency. Although everyone contributed their own distinct skills, they collaborated effectively to achieve a common goal. By acting quickly and together, they ensured the safety of colleagues and patients, preserved the environment, and kept essential services running smoothly.



Leader of the Year

Pamela Russell

Pamela Russell has demonstrated exceptional leadership, professionalism, and dedication during a period of significant transition within Ward 7/16.

Pamela stepped up without hesitation and took on the responsibility of leading the ward. Her ability to provide stability, direction, and confidence during this

time has been invaluable.

Under Pamela's leadership, Ward 7/16 not only maintained its high standards but continued to perform as one of the top wards within Medical Specialties. The ward achieved a remarkable milestone of 15 consecutive weeks with 0% sickness absence, reflecting both her strong management skills and the positive, supportive environment she fosters for her staff.



Employee of the Year

Karen Barrington

Karen Barrington is our RMN Practice Educator who demonstrates dedication, expertise, and unwavering commitment to mental health education.

She plays a pivotal role in supporting the entire site, offering high-quality training, guidance, and professional development to staff at all levels. She performs this demanding role with outstanding professionalism, compassion,

and tireless commitment, consistently going above and beyond to support patients, families and staff.

Karen has also been recognised by colleagues in regional service where she played a key role in the care and coordination provided of a regional patient while an inpatient in the North Sector. Karen supported the management of both complex mental and physical health needs in highly challenging circumstances. Professionalism, compassion and well-developed risk assessment skills were central to achieving a safe and successful transfer to the State Hospital, and to ensuring consistent, high-quality support for both the patient and staff before and during this transition.



Neil McCallum, North Sector Director, said: “I’m incredibly proud of all our award winners and what they represent across the North Sector. From Tony and Sheena’s compassion and commitment as volunteers, to the innovation shown by Dr Colquhoun and her team, and the outstanding teamwork at Stobhill, these achievements reflect the very best of our services. The response to the recent fire is also a powerful reminder of how our staff come together

under pressure to keep patients and colleagues safe.

“These awards also highlight the strength of leadership and dedication we have across our teams, from Pamela’s exceptional ward leadership to Karen’s outstanding contribution to mental health education and patient care. Together, they demonstrate the skill, professionalism and values that underpin everything we do for our patients, every day.”

It's never too early to start thinking about next year's awards. If one of your North Sector colleagues should be recognised for their work throughout the next 12 months, please nominate them. Details on how to do this will be shared towards the end of 2026.

Celebrating Our Nurses across NHSGGC

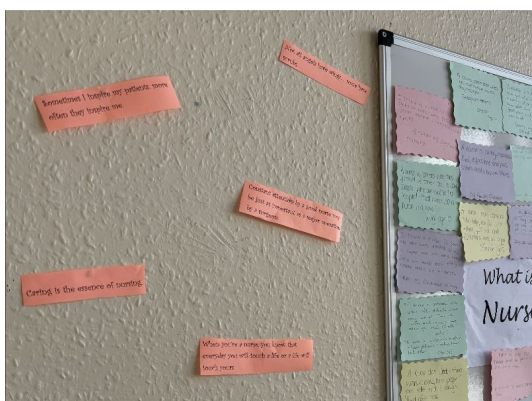


International Nurses Day was marked with a range of activities across NHSGGC, celebrating the vital contribution nurses make to patient care every

day.

On Ward 64 at GRI, activities were organised by Suzanne McDonald, Lead Nurse, and Kate Lauchlan, Senior Charge Nurse, who invited colleagues to enjoy refreshments, share stories and connect in a relaxed setting. To round off the celebrations, a volunteer from the Beatson offered hand massages to some lucky nurses, providing a moment of rest and appreciation.

The day offered a chance to pause and recognise the skill, compassion and dedication of our nursing teams, and to thank them for the difference they make to patients and families every day.



NHSGGC celebrates excellence in medical research at 2026 St Mungo's Awards



NHSGGC colleagues came together to recognise outstanding contributions from students and clinical teams to research at this year's St Mungo's Awards at Glasgow Royal Infirmary (GRI).

NHSGGC Board Chair, Dr Lesley Thomson KC, and Medical Director, Dr Scott Davidson, were among those in attendance to celebrate the high standard of work on display.

The prestigious St Mungo's Prize was awarded to Dr Alfie Lloyd, and the runner-up for Best Oral Presentation was Dr Daniel Taylor-Sweet.

The Prof Adrian Brady Memorial Award for Best Undergraduate was awarded to Sophie Hay, a fourth-year medical student, while the Best Poster prize went to Hannah Billington, also a fourth-year medical student.

The event also honoured the life and contribution of Professor Adrian Brady. His wife attended the awards in person, with other family members joining online, in a tribute recognising his lasting impact on research, education and clinical practice.

Dr Thomson, who presented the awards alongside Dr Davidson, praised the high standard of work on display and the commitment shown by participants.



Following the event, Dr Thomson said: “It was a privilege to once again present these prestigious awards and recognise the exceptional standard of research

being carried out.

“The innovation, dedication and commitment shown by all participants is truly impressive, particularly as many balance this work alongside demanding clinical roles.

“Their efforts will help shape the future of healthcare and improve outcomes for patients across our communities.”

Dr Sharon Mackin added: “We are delighted to have hosted another successful St Mungo’s Research Symposium, showcasing the high quality and diversity of research taking place at Glasgow Royal Infirmary.

“We are especially grateful to the full organising committee and colleagues across GRI who contributed to delivering this year’s event.

“We extend our congratulations to everyone who took part and thank all those involved in making the event such a success.”

[Read the full story on Staffnet](#)

**GRI teams discuss challenges and successes in ED,
Orthopaedics, and Older People’s wards**



In a recent trip to the Glasgow Royal Infirmary, NHSGGC Board Members got an insight into day-to-day life for colleagues working across the site's Emergency Department (ED), Orthopaedics, and Older People's wards.

In ED, the team discussed their challenges, including overcrowding and flow, as well as the increasing clinical complexity of patients presenting to ED. Despite these challenges, the team achieve an average triage time of 20 minutes and received glowing feedback from patients in a recent Care Experience survey, with 88% of patients describing their care and experience as very good or good.



The team spoke about how demand is increasing due to an ageing population, with more hip and knee fractures around existing implants and falls. The specialty manages both trauma and planned care, requiring separate patient flows and creating ongoing pressure on ward capacity. However, performance

remains strong, with a recent gold ACAT audit result, positive Care Opinion feedback, and improved tissue viability work led by nurses helping to enhance patient care. Outpatient and day case waiting lists have also dropped significantly over the past year, with increased elective operations for hips and knee joint replacements resulting in shorter waits for surgery.

The final stop was Ward 12, where Board Members caught up with colleagues from Older People's services.

The team spoke about the progress they have made with frailty pathways which includes screening and streamlining processes to ensure the right patient is in the right bed. Work is underway to create a dedicated frailty unit providing daily comprehensive geriatric assessments and to provide alternatives to admission; which may include attending rapid access clinic within our Day Hospitals at Stobhill and Lightburn Hospital. The Frailty front door service has recently introduced seven-day cover which has been well received.

[Read the full story on Staffnet](#)

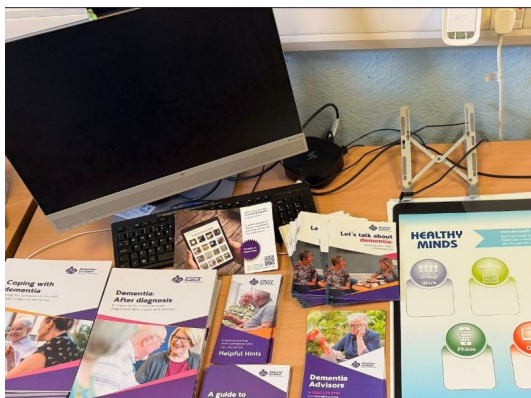
Mental Health Awareness Week - Staff wellbeing hub for acute services



Teams at GRI came together to mark Mental Health Awareness Week with a dedicated staff wellbeing hub for acute services.

The event gave staff the opportunity to meet the recently appointed Mental Health Practice Development Support Nurses, Karen Barrington (NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde)'s colleagues Beckie and Kathleen, who have joined the established North Sector service supporting GRI, Stobhill and Lightburn.

Throughout the day, staff dropped in to connect with the team, explore practical resources, and find out more about education and training opportunities now available on-site. The event created a welcoming space for conversations, learning and support, reinforcing the importance of looking after our mental wellbeing at work.





In Pictures - Dementia Café



Photos from recent Dementia Café session at GRI highlight the importance of connection, community and meaningful activity for patients living with dementia.

The sessions bring together patients, families, staff and volunteers in a welcoming space, creating opportunities for conversation, shared experiences and simple moments of joy. Through activities such as music, reminiscence and social interaction, the café continues to support wellbeing on the wards, offering a sense of normality and connection within the hospital environment.



Fantastic Fundraising for Alzheimer Scotland at Lightburn



A huge well done to those at Lightburn for their brilliant fundraising efforts in support of Alzheimer Scotland.

Following a successful event, the team raised an impressive £290 on the day. Combined with their Kiltwalk fundraising, the total now stands at £1,450 — with more still expected.

Thank you to everyone who contributed and supported this fantastic cause



From Halifax to the Highlands: A Transformative Physiotherapy Journey in Scotland



During a final clinical placement at GRI, physiotherapy student Lara Swart gained invaluable hands-on experience in elderly rehabilitation—expanding clinical skills, exploring new approaches to care, and learning firsthand how physiotherapy practice differs across healthcare systems. Join MscPT student Lara as she shares her international clinical placement experience in Scotland.

[Read the full story here](#)

USA students visit to GRI



The Practice Education Team recently welcomed 20 nursing and healthcare students, along with their professors from Bryan College of Health Sciences and Nebraska Methodist College, to Glasgow Royal Infirmary for an inspiring educational visit.

The group enjoyed a tour of the museum, attended presentations from nursing and midwifery colleagues, and visited a range of clinical areas including ICU, Theatres, Endoscopy and Gynaecology.

Feedback from the students and faculty was overwhelmingly positive. Following the visit, the students will complete a written assignment reflecting on what they learned and how they can apply these experiences in their future healthcare careers.

A huge thank you to everyone involved in making the visit such a success.



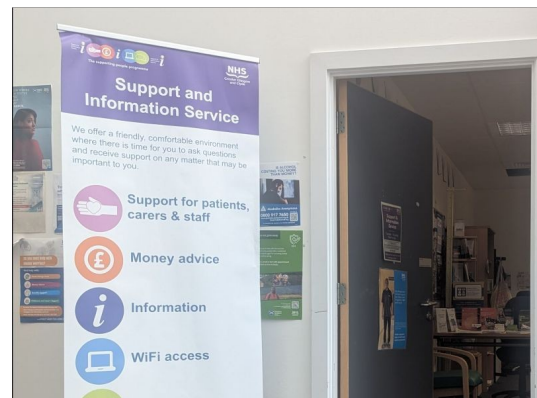
Help Shape Our Leadership Café Sessions

Do you have a live challenge, topic, or area of growth you'd like to work on in your leadership or teamwork?

Francesca Pagni has joined as Senior OD Advisor and is planning some informal Leadership Café pop-ups — but she wants your ideas first.

More details coming next month, so have a think about what would be useful for you... watch this space 👁️

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:

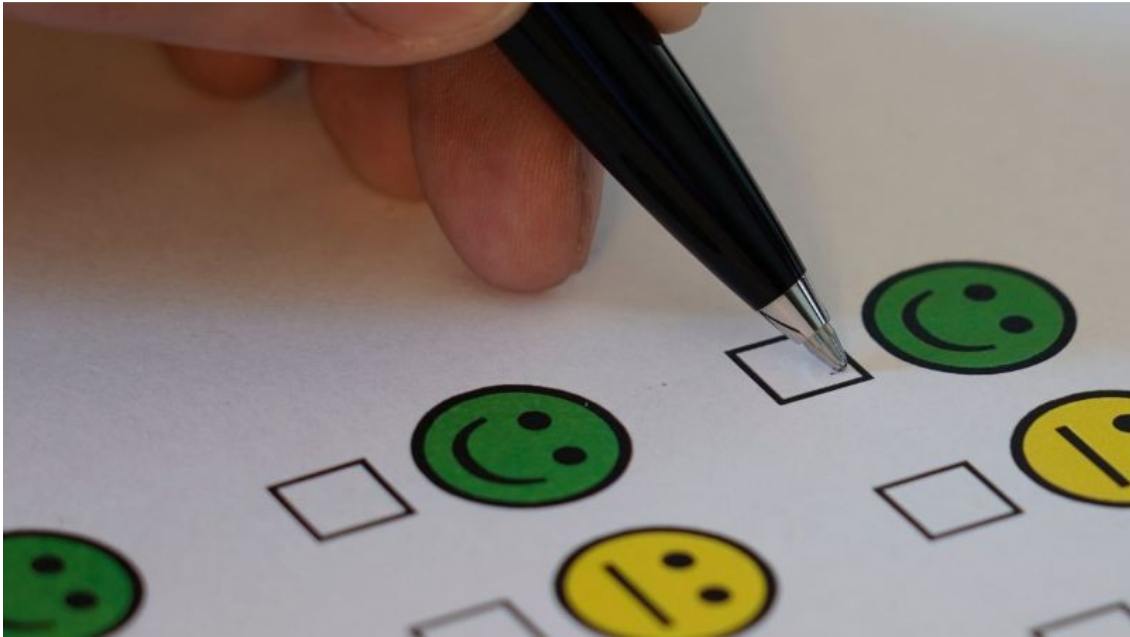
- Money Advice (Benefits, Income Maximisation Checks etc)
- Crisis Home Energy Services - support to anyone struggling with home energy matters
- Signposting to carers support services
- Two day Emergency foodbags for vulnerable patients going home
- Signposting to Community Support Services

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).

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](#)