

From: NHS GGC, General Notification
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August 2026

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Doctors from Glasgow's biggest hospitals, including GRI, swap scrubs for sheet music in charity concert for CHAS



Doctors from Glasgow hospitals are set to swap wards, clinics and operating theatres for the concert stage when they perform in the city to raise money for children with life-shortening conditions.

Clinicians from NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, including specialists from the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital and Glasgow Royal Infirmary, will join colleagues from across Europe as part of the European Doctors' Orchestra (EDO) for a special fundraising concert in aid of Children's Hospices Across Scotland (CHAS).

The performance will take place at the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall on Sunday 27 September and is expected to bring together talented medical professionals from across the continent who share a passion for music as well as medicine.

Among those helping to organise the event is Dr Arthur Doyle, Consultant Renal Physician at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital and concertmaster of the European Doctors' Orchestra. He is joined by GP Dr Samantha Ross and retired doctors Professor Kenneth Paterson and Dr Tom Barrie.

The orchestra will also feature Miss Tina Ha, Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon at Glasgow Royal Infirmary, who performs as a violinist.

Tina said: "I've been fortunate enough to perform with the European Doctors' Orchestra since I was a foundation doctor, with concerts taking me to cities across Europe including Ljubljana, Rotterdam and Essen.

"Glasgow will be my first concert as a consultant and my eighth performance with the orchestra, so it feels particularly special to be playing in my home city while supporting the incredible work carried out by CHAS."



Unlike many charity performances, members of the orchestra cover their own travel and accommodation expenses and contribute towards professional concert costs, helping to maximise the amount raised for charity.

The concert will feature works by Dvořák and Brahms and showcase musicians who spend their working lives caring for patients in hospitals, GP practices and healthcare settings across Europe.

Dr Arthur Doyle said: “Medicine and music are both disciplines that require dedication, teamwork and lifelong learning. It’s a privilege to bring together doctors from across Europe to perform in Glasgow and raise money for such an important cause.

“We’re particularly delighted that this year’s concert will support CHAS and that colleagues from NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde will be performing in front of a home audience.”

Funds raised will support CHAS, which provides expert care and support to children with life-shortening conditions and their families across Scotland.

[Tickets are available through Glasgow Royal Concert Hall.](#)



**NHSGGC holds partnership event at GRI to strengthen support
for patients and families**



Representatives from health, money advice and homelessness prevention organisations came together at Glasgow Royal Infirmary this week to explore how support for patients, families and staff facing financial pressures can be strengthened across NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde.

This workshop brought together partner organisations providing hospital-based financial inclusion support across a range of NHSGGC sites along with frontline advisers, NHS staff and service leaders to share experiences, discuss common challenges and identify opportunities for closer partnership working and look at what we can do collectively to strengthen the support available across our hospital sites.

Julie McGahan, Health Improvement Lead for Poverty and Financial Inclusion at NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, said: “Financial pressures have a significant impact on people’s health and wellbeing, and we know that patients may need help with a range of issues while they are receiving care or managing a health condition.

“Our hospital-based financial inclusion partners provide valuable support to patients, families and staff every day, helping people navigate financial pressures that can arise alongside illness, disability or other significant life events.”

Working alongside clinical teams and the Board’s Support and Information Service, advisers help people access benefits, manage debt, reduce household costs, and secure wider financial support at times when illness or changes in personal circumstances can place significant pressure on household finances.

Julie added: “By bringing partners together to share learning, good practice and experiences, we can continue to improve the support available and identify the key issues affecting communities across Greater Glasgow and Clyde. We also want to ensure that the experiences of our patients and frontline advisers help inform wider discussions with national partners and organisations.”

To find out more about hospital-based money advice services, go to the [NHSGGC website](#).

Safe Space Listening Sessions at GRI – A Confidential Space to Talk

Safe Space Listening in GRI

Safe Space is a confidential, non-judgemental listening space focused on emotional wellbeing and mental health. These are confidential, one-to-one support sessions provided by a Registered NHS Healthcare Chaplain trained in person-centred, active listening approaches. Staff in GRI are offered protected sessions (typically around 50 minutes), which may be a one-off or ongoing depending on individual need.

Participants consistently value

- The quality of active and attentive listening
- The opportunity to speak openly in a confidential setting
- The experience of unconditional positive regard

This approach has proven to be both effective and sustainable in supporting staff wellbeing during challenging periods.

Anonymous participant feedback demonstrates measurable positive outcomes for staff:

- **25%** reported that the service helped change their perspective
- **25%** said it helped them cope better at work
- **24%** felt it supported their personal or home life
- **14%** reported it enabled them to make positive changes
- **11%** indicated that it prevented the need for sick leave

Qualitative feedback from staff further illustrates the impact:

"It has been a lifesaver and meant that I didn't take time off work."

"These meetings have been an investment in my health and wellbeing."

"I would have been lost without it."



For more details on how to access this space contact: ✉ paul.grant2@nhs.scot or ☎ **07890 966965**

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Looking after our wellbeing is just as important as looking after our patients and colleagues. That's why staff across the North Sector are being encouraged to make use of the new Safe Space Listening Sessions pilot.

While the pilot is based at GRI, colleagues from Stobhill and Lightburn are also

welcome to attend. All sessions take place in a confidential space within GRI and are designed to provide a safe, supportive environment where staff can talk openly about workplace challenges, concerns or experiences.

The sessions offer an opportunity to be heard without judgement, reflect on issues that may be affecting your wellbeing, and explore sources of support where appropriate.

Whether you're experiencing a difficult period at work, feeling under pressure, or simply looking for a space to talk, the service is available for all colleagues.

The sessions are facilitated by Paul Grant, who will provide a confidential and supportive listening environment.

We recognise that healthcare can be demanding, and creating opportunities for colleagues to pause, reflect and seek support is an important part of fostering a healthy and compassionate workplace culture.

For further information on the Safe Space Listening Sessions, including how to access the service, please refer to the accompanying flyer or contact Paul.Grant2@nhs.scot directly.

Initiative launched to tackle Scotland's lowest bowel cancer screening rates



Bowel Cancer UK is delivering a new initiative to boost bowel cancer screening uptake across Greater Glasgow and Clyde (GGC), where thousands of people are missing the opportunity to detect bowel cancer early.

More than 137,000 eligible people in the NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde (NHSGGC) area did not complete their bowel screening test in the most recent two-year screening round (2023-2025).

Just 60.3% of all eligible adults living in Greater Glasgow and Clyde (GGC) completed their test, compared with the Scottish average of 65.2%*, making this one of the lowest participation rates in Scotland.

Health experts are urging people aged 50 to 74 to take part in doing their test, warning that screening is one of the best ways to detect bowel cancer before symptoms develop or remove polyps (non-cancerous growths) that might develop into cancer.

The new 12-month Early Diagnosis Programme will work with communities

across GGC where screening uptake is lowest, helping more people understand the importance of the simple test that can be completed at home.



Funded by the Bowelbabe Fund for Cancer Research UK and NHSGGC, the initiative will be delivered by Bowel Cancer UK and aims to increase participation in screening, reduce inequalities and improve early diagnosis of bowel cancer across these locations.

Jane Short, 53, from Glasgow, is backing the programme after being diagnosed with stage 4 bowel cancer. She received her first bowel screening kit when she turned 50 but didn't complete the test. Two years later, after noticing changes in her bowel habits and bleeding, she completed an at-home test which led to

further investigations. A colonoscopy found a tumour, and scans later revealed the cancer had spread to her liver.



Following chemotherapy and surgery, Jane has now returned to work as a physiotherapy support worker with NHS Scotland and is being monitored with regular scans. Looking back, she wishes she had completed her first screening test and hopes sharing her experience will encourage others to take up their invitation when it arrives.

Jane says: “Getting a cancer diagnosis was probably the worst thing that has ever happened to me. Knowing I’d had the opportunity to do my screening test and didn’t take it is something I’ll always regret. If I can encourage just one person to complete their screening test when it arrives, then sharing my story is worth it. It could make all the difference.”

Earlier diagnosis saves lives, but over four in 10 people living in Scotland are diagnosed with bowel cancer at the later stages (stage 3 and 4). Bowel cancer is the second biggest cancer killer in Scotland, however it shouldn’t be because it is treatable and curable especially if diagnosed early.

The programme combines community engagement with support for healthcare

professionals to help more eligible people complete their bowel cancer screening test. The initiative has a particular focus on reducing inequalities in screening uptake, working with communities where participation is lowest to raise awareness, build confidence and provide trusted information, helping to improve early diagnosis rates and ultimately save lives.

Activities include:

- Community events and awareness activities
- An advertising campaign to raise awareness of the Bowel Cancer Screening Programme
- Education for healthcare professionals to support earlier diagnosis

New research from YouGov, commissioned by Bowel Cancer UK, reveals some of the barriers facing people in Glasgow when it comes to taking part in screening. This includes being too frightened of what the home screening test might find (9%), forgetting to do the test (9%), and not having any symptoms of bowel cancer (5%)**.

Bowel cancer screening is available every two years to people aged 50–74 in Scotland who are registered with a GP, using an easy at-home test that is returned by post.

Andy Glyde, Strategy, Impact and Insight Lead at Bowel Cancer UK, says: “Too many people are missing the opportunity to find bowel cancer early, when treatment can be more successful and lives can be saved.

“We know there are many reasons why people may not complete their screening test, from worries about what the test might find to simply forgetting to return it. This new programme will work alongside communities in Greater Glasgow and Clyde to break down those barriers, build confidence in screening and help more people take this simple but vital step for their health.”

Dr Alison Potts, Consultant in Public Health at the NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board, says: “We know that increasing participation in bowel cancer screening is key to improving outcomes for people across Greater

Glasgow and Clyde.

“By working with Bowel Cancer UK and local communities, we can help ensure more people understand the benefits of screening and feel supported to take part. Detecting bowel cancer earlier gives people the best possible chance of successful treatment, and this programme is an important step towards achieving that.”

Bowel Cancer UK is encouraging people living in Greater Glasgow and Clyde to get involved with the programme by volunteering at events, sharing their experiences of bowel cancer, or raising awareness within the community.

For more information about bowel cancer symptoms and how to get involved in the programme, visit www.bowelcanceruk.org.uk/edp-greater-glasgow-and-clyde/

Personal Development Planning and Review (PDP&R) – Time to Start the Conversation



The North Sector continues to lead the way when it comes to Personal Development Planning and Review (PDP&R), achieving the highest completion rates across Acute Services. Thank you to all colleagues and managers who have embraced these important conversations and helped make staff development a priority.

As we prepare for the next PDP&R period, taking place between September and October, now is a great time to start thinking about your development goals, achievements and aspirations for the year ahead.

PDP&R is about much more than completing a form. It provides an opportunity to reflect on what has gone well, discuss challenges, identify learning opportunities and explore future career development. These conversations help ensure everyone feels valued, supported and able to reach their full potential.

Remember: You Don't Need to Wait 12 Months

While every member of staff should have a formal PDP&R conversation annually, development discussions shouldn't be limited to a once-a-year event. Regular check-ins throughout the year can help:

- Celebrate achievements and progress
- Identify support or training needs early
- Review goals and priorities
- Maintain open communication between staff and managers
- Support wellbeing and career development

Whether you're preparing for your annual review or simply arranging a development conversation with your manager, it's never too early to talk about your growth and ambitions.

Why PDP&R Matters

PDP&R supports:

- Personal and professional development
- Delivery of high-quality patient care
- Career progression and learning opportunities
- Staff wellbeing and engagement
- Achievement of the Staff Governance Standard

The North Sector has built a strong culture of development, and by continuing to prioritise meaningful conversations, we can build on our success and ensure colleagues feel supported to thrive.

Let's continue the conversation and keep development at the heart of what we do.

[Click here to find out more about PDP&R](#)

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

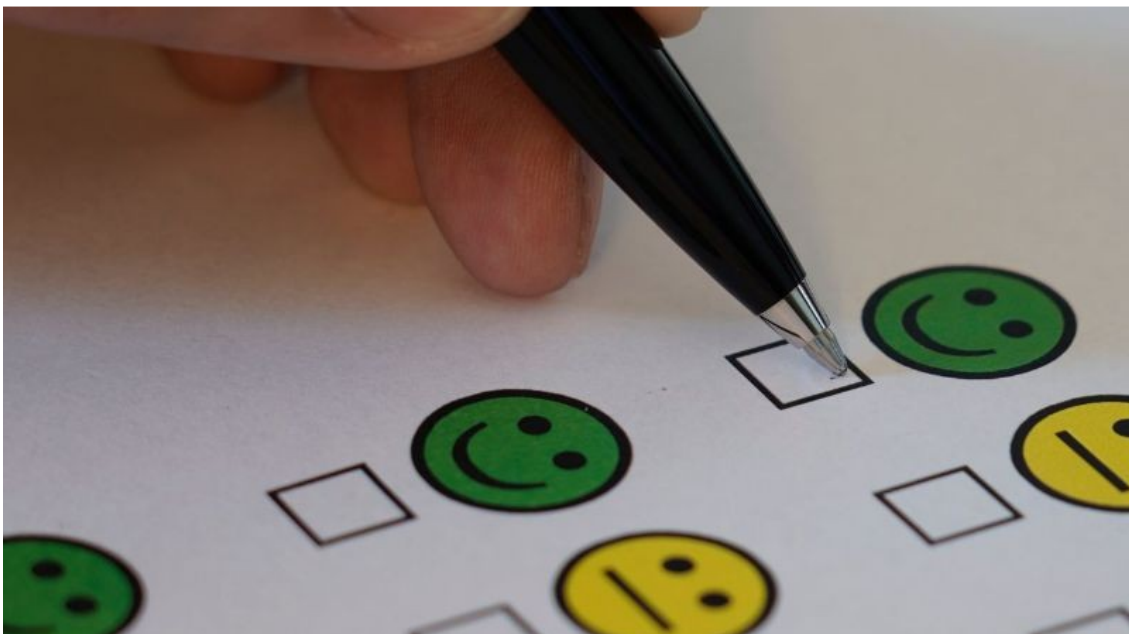
do.

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

Upcoming Dates

- [7th - 13th September - Know your Numbers Week \(Blood Pressure\)](#)
 - [10th September - World Suicide Prevention Day](#)
 - [13th September - World Sepsis Day](#)
 - [14th - 20th September - National Inclusion Week](#)
 - [15th - 19th September - National Pensions Awareness Week](#)
 - [16th September - National Fitness Day](#)
 - [21st - 27th September - Migraine Awareness Week](#)
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Your stories and feedback



We want to hear from you!

There are incredible stories happening across the North Sector every day, and we'd love to share them. Whether it's an individual achievement, a team success, an improvement project or an example of great patient care, we want to hear from you.

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](#)

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