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October 2026

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Celebrating North Sector Success

There was plenty to celebrate for the North Sector at this year's Celebrating Success Awards, with colleagues recognised for outstanding teamwork, innovation and commitment across NHSGGC.

Acute Services - North Sector
Overall Winner – GRI Fire Response Team



The GRI Fire Response Team was recognised for the professionalism, courage and teamwork demonstrated during a critical fire emergency. Staff from across departments came together under significant pressure to protect patients, support colleagues and maintain essential services. Their response was a fantastic example of North Sector teamwork at its very best.

HR and Organisational Development
Overall Winner – Eileen McFadyen



Eileen was recognised for her dedicated support of Project SEARCH, helping young people with learning disabilities and autism gain valuable skills, confidence and workplace experience. Her work has supported the programme at GRI and its expansion into Inverclyde, contributing to a programme through which almost 70 participants have gone on to become NHSGGC employees.

William Cullen Prize for Innovation Winner – Stobhill Block Room Team



Led by Dr David Macpherson, the Stobhill Block Room Team was recognised for transforming elective day-case upper limb surgery at Stobhill. Their innovative approach has made awake regional anaesthesia the default standard of care, improving efficiency, shortening recovery times and achieving 98% patient satisfaction, all while making better use of existing resources.

A huge congratulations to our winners and to every North Sector colleague and team nominated at this year's Celebrating Success Awards.

Being nominated is an achievement in itself and reflects the incredible work happening every day across our hospitals and services. Thank you to everyone who continues to improve patient care, support colleagues and make the North Sector a great place to work.

Well done everyone!

Click here to view The Celebrating Success Staff Awards event page

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Patient returns to Stobhill to thank hospital team who helped save his life



When John Sinclair set off for Stobhill Hospital for what he thought was a routine appointment, he could never have imagined how the day would unfold.

The 64-year-old from Springburn was travelling by taxi to Stobhill when he suffered a cardiac arrest as it arrived at the hospital. Driver Charlie Matthews realised something was wrong and quickly raised the alarm, prompting hospital staff to rush outside to help.

Day Surgery nurses immediately began CPR in the taxi, while colleagues brought a defibrillator, medicines, fluids and other emergency equipment out from the hospital. In torrential rain and far from their usual clinical environment, teams worked together to save John’s life.

After four rounds of CPR and five shocks from the defibrillator, John’s circulation was successfully restored. He was transferred to the Golden Jubilee University National Hospital for specialist cardiac treatment and intensive care before continuing his recovery at Glasgow Royal Infirmary. He was able to return home on 9 September.

But there was an extraordinary twist to John's story. His appointment wasn't actually until the following day.

John's daughter Donna later described his decision to go to Stobhill a day early as fate. Had he been at home when the cardiac arrest happened, she said, no one may have known.

After recovering, John returned to Stobhill with his family to meet and thank some of the people who had helped save his life.

John said: "I don't remember what happened that morning, but I know just how lucky I am.

"Having the chance to come back to Stobhill and meet the people who helped save my life means so much to me and my family. I'll never be able to thank them enough."

Stobhill is an ambulatory care hospital and does not have an A&E. Instead, it has a stand-alone Minor Injuries Unit (MIU), alongside a wide range of planned and specialist services including Day Surgery, Endoscopy and Gynaecology. These services are accessed by appointment only or by calling NHS 24 on 111.

On this occasion, staff from across Stobhill found themselves responding to a completely unexpected medical emergency, working together to provide John with immediate life-saving care.

Dr David Macpherson, Consultant Anaesthetist, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, said: "What happened that morning was completely unexpected, but staff didn't hesitate. CPR was started immediately, equipment was brought outside and colleagues worked together in extremely challenging circumstances.

"The best part of this story is seeing John well again and welcoming him and his family back to Stobhill. For the team to meet the person whose life they

helped save was incredibly special."

Susan Groom, Interim Director for the North Sector, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, said: "John's story is an extraordinary example of our staff responding to a completely unexpected situation with skill, professionalism and compassion.

"We're incredibly proud of everyone who stepped in to help at Stobhill that morning, as well as the teams involved in his ongoing care and recovery at Glasgow Royal Infirmary.

"It's wonderful to see John recovering so well and to have welcomed him and his family back to Stobhill to meet some of the people who helped save his life."

New staff rest area opens at GRI



A new rest area has opened at Glasgow Royal Infirmary (GRI), offering colleagues a safe and comfortable space to rest when they need it.

The new facility has been developed with staff wellbeing and safety at its heart, particularly for colleagues who may finish a night shift feeling too tired to drive home safely.

Importantly, the room is available to colleagues from all staff groups. It is a space where staff can take time to rest if fatigue means they are concerned about safely making their journey home. The room can also be used as a rest area during breaks, including by colleagues working at the hospital's front door over weekends.

The need for the facility was highlighted through work led by Dr Susan Macmillan (pictured above), Emergency Medicine Registrar, including an anonymous survey of Medical trainees and Emergency Medicine doctors. Among trainee and non-consultant respondents, 92% said they had felt too tired to drive following a night shift, while 76% said they would use a hospital rest facility if one was available.

In response, Susan conceived and drove forward the plans for the new rest area, with support from colleagues including Helen Slavin, Consultant Stroke Physician at GRI and Deputy Director of Medical Education, Hazel Miller, Consultant Geriatrician at GRI and co-chair of Medical Wellbeing Group, Sile McGlone, Emergency Medicine Consultant, and Carol Heads from Estates and Facilities, who helped bring the plans to life.





Susan said: “It’s fantastic to see the room now available for colleagues. We know the effect that tiredness can have after a busy shift, and the idea behind this was to provide a safe space where any member of staff can take some time to rest if they are too tired to drive home safely, particularly at the end of a busy night shift. I plan to gather feedback from staff who use the room to ensure it meets their needs.”

Hazel added: “This is something that has been in development for some time, so it’s really positive to see the space ready for staff to use. This is for everyone

working across GRI, regardless of their role, and we hope colleagues will feel able to use it when they need to."

Susan Groom, Interim Director for North Sector, said: "Supporting the health and wellbeing of our staff is incredibly important, and this new rest area is a simple but valuable addition for colleagues at GRI.

"Fatigue can have a real impact, particularly after a busy shift, and we want colleagues to feel able to take the time they need to rest before travelling home. I'm delighted to see this new space available to colleagues across all staff groups."

The team behind the project hope the new room will provide practical support for colleagues and reinforce the importance of recognising fatigue and taking time to rest when needed. Staff who use the facility are also encouraged to provide feedback, which will help the team understand how it is being used and identify any improvements that may be needed.

The rest room is located within the Respiratory Department in the QEB. There is currently one room available on a first-come, first-served basis, with clean linen provided. Staff should use the 'do not disturb' sign on the door when the room is occupied, and a book is available to record use of the facility. A booking system is also being explored. The door code and full directions are available from the ED Nurse in Charge and the Hospital at Night coordinators, and will shortly be uploaded to the MED ED Resident Doctors North Sector Induction Staffnet page.





World Kindness Day 2026

This year, World Kindness Day falls on a Friday. To make sure everyone in your team is included, we want you to choose the days that suit you and your team the most. That’s any day from Monday 9 to Sunday 15 November!

We encourage you to get involved on the day, either by visiting stalls or attending events at your site, celebrating with colleagues, or even just making time for a cuppa and a chat.

We all have a part to play in building a caring and compassionate culture at NHSGGC. This event is all about the small, everyday gestures that can make a big impact and require little effort or expense.

This links into our Civility Saves Lives campaign, aiming to promote positive working relationships and raise awareness about how our behaviour with

colleagues can have a direct impact on patient care and outcomes, and staff experience and wellbeing.

Welcome to Our Newly Qualified Midwives



NHSGGC has welcomed 56 newly qualified midwives as part of a £4 million investment to strengthen maternity services across the Board.

The new midwives will work across maternity services including the PRM, as well as QEUH, RAH, Inverclyde, Vale of Leven and community and outpatient teams. Many already know NHSGGC well, having completed their clinical placements here while studying at the University of the West of Scotland.

The new recruits are being supported through a comprehensive induction programme, alongside clinical skills training and preceptorship from experienced colleagues. During their first three years, they will also rotate through different areas of maternity care, helping them build their skills and experience.

A very warm welcome to our new colleagues, particularly those joining teams within the North Sector, and we wish them every success as they begin their careers with NHSGGC.

Click here to view NHSGGC Welcomes 56 Newly Qualified Midwives to Growing Maternity Team

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Help Protect Your Child Against Flu This Winter



NHSGGC is encouraging parents and carers to make sure eligible children receive their flu vaccination this winter. For most children, it's given as a quick nasal spray into each nostril, known as the"wee scoosh".

Pre-school children are being invited to community vaccination clinics, while most primary and secondary school pupils are offered vaccination through school. If an appointment has been missed or is no longer suitable, parents and

carers can rearrange it, with additional clinic opportunities also available.

Getting vaccinated helps protect children against flu while also reducing the risk of spreading the virus to others, including babies, grandparents and people with long-term health conditions.

If your child is eligible, please take up the opportunity and help keep them protected this winter.

Click here to view However you do it, get your child their 'wee scoosh' against flu

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

Greater Glasgow & Clyde Healthcare Charity

Spiritual Care Service
Hope, Identity, Wellbeing, Stories, Meaning

NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde

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.

Worried About Energy Bills This Winter?



As energy bills rise and colder weather approaches, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde (NHSGGC) is reminding staff, patients and families that confidential advice and support is available for anyone worried about heating costs, household bills or wider financial pressures.

The advice highlights five useful things to check this winter:

- Whether you could receive £150 off your electricity bill through the Warm Home Discount
- Whether you're receiving all the benefits, grants and financial support you're entitled to
- Whether you could register for additional help through your energy supplier's Priority Services Register
- Seeking advice early if you're struggling with energy debt or payments
- Remembering that you don't need to manage financial worries alone

Across NHSGGC, financial inclusion teams and partner organisations can provide support with energy costs, benefits, debt, council tax, housing issues

and other financial concerns. Staff can also access the advice and support available.

If you're worried about your energy bills or wider household costs, don't wait until things become more difficult.

Click here to view Worried about energy bills? Five things to check this winter

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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.

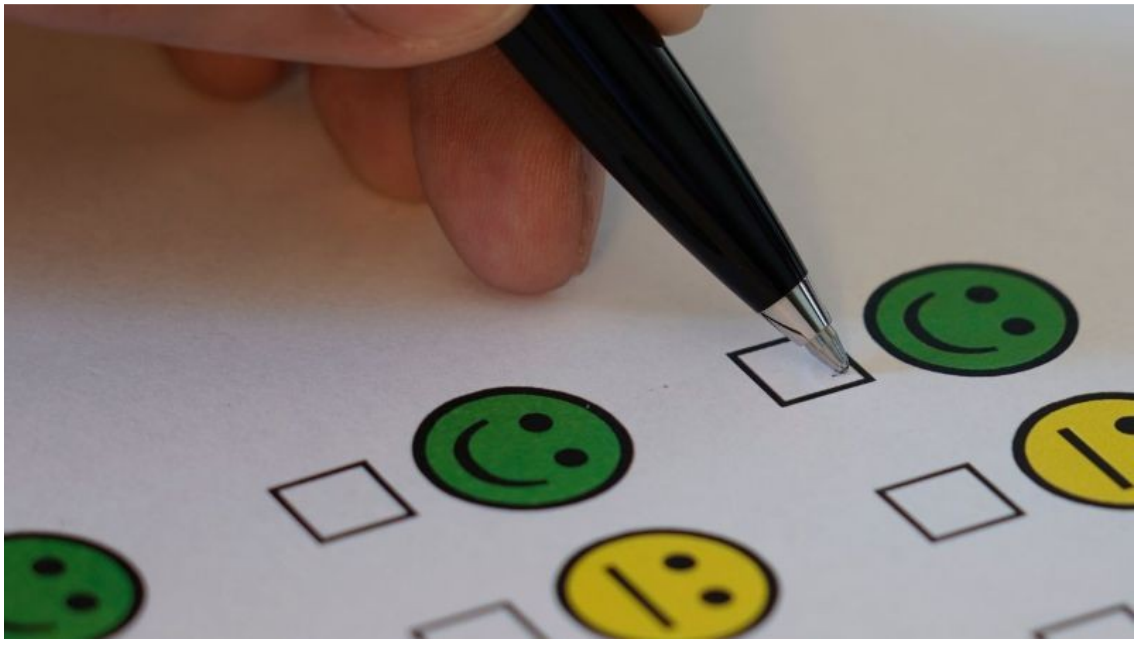
Everyone is welcome to drop in, say hello, and find out more about what they do.

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

- 1st - 31st October - Stoptober: Quit Smoking
- 1st - 31st October - Sober October
- 1st - 31st October - National Cholesterol Month
- 1st - 31st October - Black History Month
- 1st - 31st October - Breast Cancer Awareness Month
- 5th - 9th October - National Work Life Week
- 10th October - World Mental Health Day18th October - World Menopause Day

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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