

Core brief

**Message from Jane Grant, Chief Executive
(08 January 2021, 4.15pm)**

We are now at the end of the first full week of 2021 so first and foremost, I would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year. Unlike most New Years, when we are thinking up resolutions and contemplating how long it will take to work off the festive treats, from those of you I have spoken to, unsurprisingly, we are all very focussed on COVID patient demands, COVID vaccinations, lockdown restrictions and when we will be able to spend more quality time with our loved ones again.

We are still faced with significant challenges right now, not least with additional winter pressures impacting further on the vast amount of work being carried out in the fight against COVID-19.

We have received a fantastic uptake from staff for the COVID vaccination, with over 26,000 of you having already received the vaccine, or are scheduled to do so. Thank you to those of you who have already come forward to be vaccinated and thanks also to our vaccination staff, without whom we would not be able to move this forward.

I realise that we did experience some teething problems this week at the GRI and RAH. To those staff who had to wait or have their appointment rescheduled, I am sorry this was the case and I would like to personally thank you for your patience. Likewise to the vaccinators who stayed on to try and see as many people as possible into the evening, thank you for your commitment to the programme and your colleagues.

We are also continuing the roll-out of the vaccination programme into our local communities, with GPs commencing the vaccination of members of the public aged 80 and over next week. This is a great step forward and I look forward to hearing about progress from our Primary Care colleagues. I would like to thank the GP community for supporting this stage of the programme.

I recognise there remains much to do, but I am confident that we have the right people to steer our organisation through, what I hope are, the final stages of this pandemic and on to a much brighter and positive year ahead.

Finally, please accept my very best wishes for the year ahead. Thank you.

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