

Core brief

**Message from Jane Grant, Chief Executive
(12 November 2021, 4.10pm)**

As the COP26 climate change conference draws to a close, I am pleased to report that the impact on our services has been minimal. The process to triage minor injuries on and around the SEC site worked very well, meaning that the majority of non-critical ailments were treated without delegates or conference staff needing to attend our hospitals. Our Public Health colleagues also provided expert advice to delegates and conference staff, supporting COP26 to remain safe.

The success we have seen is down to a hugely extensive programme of work, which included service preparation and contingency planning, that was undertaken by our teams in partnership with Glasgow City Council, the Scottish and Westminster governments as well as colleagues from the Emergency Services. The enormity and complexity of the work that was done behind the scenes of the conference is such that as COP26 concludes, we should recognise the efforts of all those involved and I would like to thank all of our staff and those of Glasgow HSCP for really going the extra mile to ensure such a positive outcome.

I have also been reflecting on the themes of the event and the work we need to undertake to effectively play our part in driving a more sustainable future for our staff and patients. I have been really encouraged by some of the fantastic efforts that are being undertaken by our teams and I would like to share with you another example of where we are making some strong progress.

In the last financial year, we used 129 million kilowatt hours (kWh) of grid electricity. This is equivalent to the greenhouse gas emissions from almost 20,000 passenger cars driven for a whole year. This simply isn't sustainable, which is why our Energy Team has invested over £1 million in LED lights and smart controls that automatically turn off or dimming lights when they are not required. Much of the funding will be supported by funding from the Scottish Government's Green Public Sector Estate Decarbonisation Scheme. We anticipate that this will result in an annual saving of 1.5 million kilowatt hours and 316 tonnes of CO2 emissions. I am looking forward to finding out more from the team about further progress being made across our sites and would like to thank them for their hard work to date.

As staff will be aware, we continue to experience pressures across our services as COVID-19 still very much remains with us. As such, our teams continue to take appropriate steps to keep patients and colleagues safe. One such action was the recent, short period of enhanced visiting restrictions at the RAH. However, I am pleased to note that as of this week, we have been able to move from essential visiting to one designated visitor. I would like to thank our staff and volunteers, who have been operating the re-established 'Give and Go' service on site, for making this transition as seamless as possible for our patients and their loved ones. It is vitally important that we can adapt safely and swiftly, so that our patients are not without in-person contact from their loved ones for any longer than is absolutely necessary and it is encouraging that our teams have come together so professionally to make these changes rapidly and in line with our infection control guidelines.

I would like to congratulate the HEPMA Programme Team, who have made the shortlist for the Scottish Public Service Awards, for their smooth implementation of the HEPMA (Hospital Prescribing and Medicines Administration) prescribing system, which replaces the Kardex paper drugs chart. HEPMA has already been rolled out at the QEUH, the Beatson, New Victoria, GRI and Princess Royal Maternity. This is a real step forward for staff across NHSGGC, as it streamlines the process of giving medicines to patients. It is a great example of how technology can help our clinical teams provide the best possible care to patients. Good luck to the team at the awards next month and thank you for your dedication to this project.

Finally, I would like to advise staff that our Employee Director, Dorothy McErlean has taken the decision to retire from NHSGGC at the end of this year. Dorothy has had a lengthy and very successful career as part of the NHS family and I would like to thank her for her service to our patients, our staff and to the NHSGGC Board. I'm sure staff will join me to wish Dorothy well for her retirement. I am also pleased to announce that Ann Cameron-Burns has been appointed as Dorothy's successor in the role of Employee Director and I very much look forward to working with her when she undertakes the role in the New Year.

Are your contact details up-to-date? [Click here](#) to check