

# Core brief

**Message from Jane Grant, Chief Executive  
(28 January 2022, 11.30am)**

This week, we have seen further positive news with the number of COVID cases in our local communities continuing to reduce. We are also, now, seeing a steady decline in the number of people being admitted into hospital. While pressures do still remain, not least in regard to staff absence, I am optimistic that we may be on our way to turning a corner. We continue to face challenges in our care homes, but again, we are beginning to see instances of infection start to fall and I hope this continues to be the trend as we move into February and further towards the Spring.

Staff will also be aware that we have returned to enabling every patient, where possible, access to one visitor every day. I realise this will put added pressure on staff, given existing challenges, but it is really important for our patients' well-being that they are able to see their family and loved ones in person. I would like to thank all staff who are helping to facilitate the reintroduction of these broader visiting arrangements as well all those health and social care staff who continue to work so hard to support all of our patients and residents, thank you for continuing to give your very best.

I was pleased to read some really positive feedback about our team at the Vale this week. A relative of an elderly patient contacted Ward 14 from Australia to ask about their father's treatment and procedures which had been performed. I have no doubt that being so far away from your parent when they are in their advancing years is particularly difficult, but likely more so when they are in hospital. The relative was delighted that the staff member who took their call, SCN Sean Chambers, was so well-informed about their parent's condition and gave such excellent support and guidance, really putting the relative's mind at ease. For many of our staff, dealing with such calls is simply part of the job, but when handled effectively and compassionately, it really does mean so much. I would like to thank and commend Sean for his approach with this patient and his family.

I would like to congratulate two members of our Estates and Facilities team for recent awards they have received. Our Sustainability Manager, Martin Johnston, has been awarded Glasgow Caledonian University's Alumni of the Year for 2021, for his "powerful contribution to tackling climate change and making a sustainable impact". Martin has been heavily involved in moving the sustainability agenda forward on behalf of NHSGGC, driving real changes to how we operate and making him absolutely deserving of this award. The second team member to receive high commendation is Kirsten Allen. Kirsten is working as a Sustainability Intern and has been awarded the Third Year Best Student Award from Glasgow Caledonian University, which is a great achievement and a real testament to the work she is undertaking as part of the NHSGGC team. Congratulations and well done to Kirsten and Martin, please keep up your excellent work!

Finally, I am pleased to inform staff that Angela O'Neill, our Deputy Director of Nursing in Acute Services has been appointed as Interim Nurse Director. Angela will take up this post with effect from the 1st of February 2022 to enable a handover with Dr Margaret Maguire ahead of her retirement. I very much look forward to working with Angela in this new, interim position. Thank you.