

Core brief

Message from Jane Grant, Chief Executive (4 February 2022, 5.25pm)

I am very pleased to report that, after a lengthy period of increased COVID patients in hospitals and care homes across Greater Glasgow and Clyde, the situation is now beginning to follow the trend of community cases and reduce significantly. Over a period of 10 days, we saw patient numbers across our hospitals decrease by over 160, which is a huge improvement. While we continue to see people being admitted, it is not at the same rate as the latter part of last year and early January.

Likewise, the number of people being treated in our ICU and HDU remains stable, which is encouraging. The situation in care homes is also improving, with the number of homes closed to admissions or impacted by an COVID outbreak continuing to reduce. However, while I am optimistic, we also need to remain cautious. This is not least because we are still in the middle of winter, and therefore must continue to respond to the usual pressures the season brings. We know that we will be faced with increasing ED attendances for some time yet, which I understand will be having an impact on our staff, but I hope that as we move into next month, we will, as we do each year, begin to see improvements in this area as well.

I am very much looking forward to a key event in the calendar for the West Dunbartonshire community next week, with the opening of the brand new Clydebank Health and Care Centre. The £21.7 million centre, a significant project delivered by our capital planning team and the HSCP, brings together six GP surgeries that will serve around 47,000 people in the Clydebank area. The centre will also be home to 340 staff, plus an additional 300 Home Carers from the Care at Home service and will house physiotherapy, treatment rooms, podiatry, mental health services, sexual health services, as well as many others to support local patients. I visited the centre this week and it is a very impressive building, which I am sure will be a very welcome addition to the local community. I hope all those who have the opportunity to work there will enjoy their new space and make the centre an integral part of local health and social care provision.



The new Clydebank Health and Care Centre

I was really pleased to see media coverage about the new [Trans Oral Robotic Surgery](#) (TORS), which is now available to throat cancer patients at the QEUH. The surgery, undertaken by one of the team using a remote console to drive the surgical tools, enables the removal of cancerous tissue, which can result in the patient no longer requiring radiotherapy. This is a great step forward in cancer treatment and as such, it is a really

important opportunity to shine a light on some of the fantastic work our teams do. I would like to thank Jenny Montgomery and Stuart Robertson for taking the time to work with our Communications Team to raise the profile of this innovative work carried out in NHSGGC to benefit our patients.

This week, I would also like to share with you a story from our Cleft Team at the Royal Hospital for Children. A parent has shared the story of their daughter, who was diagnosed as having a cleft lip during pregnancy and has since undergone treatment. While the family are thankful to the entire team, the Cleft Lip Specialist Nurse, Shirley Wallace, who was assigned to the family, has been highlighted as providing “phenomenal support”. From the first phone call with Shirley, just one day after Mum’s 20 week scan, the family have been very well supported, listened to and enabled to be a real part of the process from diagnosis through to confirmation of their baby’s cleft lip and on to treatment. The family are so very thankful for the work of the team and for having Shirley by their side, during what was a particularly stressful time. The family’s kind and grateful words are such a testament to the work of the RHC team, and particularly, Shirley, who I would like to personally thank for her compassion and excellent care. Well done, Shirley.

Finally, more good news this week as NHSGGC colleagues have been recognised for their contribution to health and social care, thanks to their work as part of the West of Scotland Innovation Hub, which saw six projects nominated for the prestigious Digital Health and Care Awards. The shortlisted nominations were for the Digital Health and Care Team award and the Data Driven Innovation Award for the Hub’s work in Pathology digitisation and Artificial Intelligence (AI), alongside partners iCAIRD. The Dynamic AI COPD information and monitoring tool, which aims to improve the patient to clinician experience has also received a nomination, as well as the Hub’s involvement in the Dynamic AI COPD information and monitoring tool, which has been shortlisted for the Industry Collaboration Award. The final two nominations are dedicated to a project that the team has delivered in partnership with Lenus Health, which aims to transform the heart failure diagnostic pathway, and have been named amongst those in the running for both the Industry Collaboration Award and the Data Driven Innovation Award. NHSGGC and our partners are collaborating on a number of exciting innovations and I am delighted that their work has been recognised. I wish them all the best of luck in the awards

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