

Core brief

Daily update

(31 March 2022, 12.20pm)

Topics in this Core Brief:

- Do you need help with money worries
- Realistic Medicine Week
- Ramadan, 2 April – 1 May 2022
- Update – donations to Ukraine
- Clyde Tunnel – cycle and pedestrian route

Do you need help with money worries?

The announcement that the energy price cap will increase has been alarming. Electricity and gas bills for a typical household will go up by £693 a year in April, a 54% increase with a further increase coming in October. This comes at the same time as a 1.25% increase in our National Insurance contributions from April.

For many of us, this is going to introduce significant pressure to household budgets, which may already be stretched with the increases to the cost of living. Food costs are still rising and fuel prices are soaring too. At the same time the cost of public transport has increased, rents have risen, the cost of childcare has increased by more than a quarter in the past three years, and COVID-related supports such as the £20 per week uplift in Universal Credit have been withdrawn.

As an accredited Living Wage employer, NHSGGC is committed to paying all staff including contractors a rate of pay that is calculated on the cost of living. However, the cost of living increases will affect everyone, and some of us more than others. Now more than ever it is important to support staff who may be experiencing worries about money. This may apply to you, your colleagues, or those you line manage. Please play your part by sharing with staff the supports that are available to them.

The '**All About Money**' staff web page is designed to enable staff to access information and support on a range of issues including home energy, childcare, and social security benefits:

[NHSGGC : Staff Health - All about money](#)

Staff can search for '**money advice**' on the Health and Wellbeing Directory to find local services who can offer information and support on a range of topics including money advice, including debts and income maximisation:

[Health and Wellbeing Directory \(nhsggc.org.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/health-and-wellbeing-directory/)

Managers can print off the [attached poster](#) & display for staff who do not regularly have access to or use a computer/laptop.

This campaign comes to you through the Staff Health Strategy with support from the Area Partnership Forum.

Realistic Medicine Week

A week of highly successful and well attended on-line events, culminates today (Thursday 31) at 4.30pm with Professor Tom Inns from the Department of Design, Manufacturing & Engineering Management at the University of Strathclyde offering us a new Realistic Medicine approach to QI: [‘A new toolbox for design in Healthcare Quality Improvement’](#)

The NHSGGC Realistic team are now releasing a [GGC Realistic Medicine Toolkit](#) to help staff who want to find out more about how to put Realistic Medicine principles into practice and where recordings of this weeks’ sessions can also be watched. There's a handy smart-phone App version available here from [Apple](#) and [Google Play](#) App stores. Or you can simply type 'Right Decision Finder' into your favourite App store to find it.

Alastair Ireland, Clinical Lead for Realistic medicine said: "The toolkit brings a host of useful resources into one place, explaining more about the concept of Shared Decision Making, Personalised Care, Reducing Harm, Waste and Unwarranted variation. There are links to training modules, videos and our Realistic Conversations Communications training programme and this week’s webinars.

You can also find out how to become a Realistic Medicine champion and get the latest news about upcoming events. And it's all been made possible by the brilliant NHSGGC Knowledge Services team, who deserve a medal for all their hard work building the app!"

Ramadan, 2 April 2022 – 1 May 2022

Ramadan is an important and special time for our Muslim staff, and a great opportunity to celebrate diversity. Long days of fasting and finding time to perform faith rituals can be challenging though, especially in demanding roles. I encourage all staff members to support their Muslim colleagues as best they can and work with them to maintain good health and wellbeing over the next month. Wishing everyone a Happy Ramadan! - **Amina Khan, Non-Executive Director, BME Diversity Champion**

We are soon approaching Ramadan, where a number of our colleagues across our organisation will fast during daylight hours. As well as fasting, Muslims observing Ramadan also increase in spiritual devotional acts such as prayer.

Ramadan is expected to begin on or around 2 April 2022 and observations will continue until 1 May.

It is important that colleagues are aware of this religious obligation, and that, where required, we consider what support or adjustments our colleagues and patients might require.

There is more information on the attached [Ramadan Health Factsheet](#) which details Ramadan obligations. You can also find out more from the Faith and Belief Manual, which is [available here](#).

If you would like any support, access to quiet spaces or materials for yourself, members of your team or patients in your care and their relatives please contact your site chaplain, or you can email Chaplains@ggc.scot.nhs.uk

Our BME Network can also provide further information for staff and you can contact our BME Staff Network Chair by emailing ggc.bmestaffnetwork@nhs.scot

The BME network is a safe, supportive and confidential forum for sharing experiences, and an opportunity to influence on issues impacting on the health, wellbeing and work of BME staff.

Update - donations to Ukraine

Many of our staff have been actively involved in supporting donations to Ukraine and as you will be aware, the priority for supplies on the ground is continually changing as the situation in the region evolves. Currently, the Scottish Government and NHS National Services Scotland are coordinating donations of medical humanitarian aid and offers of support from the NHS in Scotland.

This is part of a UK four nations approach where supplies are delivered by through multilateral aid agencies. In order to ensure the most effective way to donate is established, a 'priority list' of medical supply gaps is being co-ordinated between the government of Ukraine and the UK Government and as such, any supplies sent to Ukraine must be made through this official channel, must adhere to product shelf lives stipulated by WHO humanitarian aid guidelines, be in unbroken containers and be in significant pallet loads.

To date, NHS National Services Scotland has successfully provided 79 pallets of medical equipment and consumables valued at over £1.6 m that has been added into contributions from around the UK, for flights to Poland and onwards transport into Ukraine coordinated by the Foreign and Commonwealth Development Office. Currently, the surplus items held at our central Procurement Store at Dava Street are not included on the 'priority list', but should this change, the Central Procurement team will take appropriate steps to make the donation. Our local hospital store areas are only designed to hold up to 10 days stock and are topped up frequently, however, for those teams that have a very slow moving or surplus stock of medical items, you can email the Procurement team at: Ukraine@ggcprocurementcustomerservices.zendesk.com who will arrange for the items to be inspected and will liaise with National Services Scotland to determine whether the stock is suitable for donation.

Clyde Tunnel – cycle and pedestrian route

Glasgow City Council have confirmed the work being undertaken in the Clyde Tunnel cycle and pedestrian route is now complete and the tunnel is now open. The planned closures for the remainder of this week and for Monday 4 and Tuesday 5 April are now cancelled.

Lateral Flow Tests - Available to all staff working on site

Speak to your line manager about where to collect your test kit, then:

Register
your kit

Test
twice per week

Record
your results

Keep your colleagues and patients safe from COVID-19

Help stop the spread!

Visit: www.nhsggc.org.uk/lfid-stafftesting

Please keep up-to-date with the latest guidance on our dedicated web pages at: www.nhsggc.org.uk/covid19. If you have any questions about the current situation please check the FAQs first. If you have any further questions, please email: HR.Support@ggc.scot.nhs.uk.

Staff are reminded to make sure their [personal contact details are up to date on eESS](#).

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