

# Core brief

**Message from Jane Grant, Chief Executive**  
**(1 April 2022, 10am)**

Across our health and social care settings, we continue to be faced with considerable COVID related challenges. The community case numbers continue to steadily decline, which we should begin to see replicated across our hospitals and care homes soon. At this point, however, we continue to manage significant patient numbers in our hospitals. There are also many residents affected by COVID in care homes and significant staff absences in care at home services and as a result, many patients have had their discharge from hospital delayed.

We also continue to have a relatively high number of acute and community staff absent as a result of COVID and many more having to juggle home and work life due to family members being impacted by the virus. I recognise that this has been the case for a prolonged period and I am exceptionally grateful to all staff for continuing to provide compassionate patient care despite the professional and personal challenges you face. While I hope that we will begin to see a more positive outlook very soon, until this happens, we will continue to do all we can to ease the pressures on our services and staff alike.

As staff will be aware, the First Minister announced this week that there will be changes to the current restrictions concerning the wearing of face coverings in social and workplace settings. However, I would like to reassure staff that currently, these changes will not affect health and social care. As such, staff are reminded that wearing a face covering and physical distancing controls remain in place throughout our buildings and in our services. Fluid Resistant Surgical Masks should be worn by staff in all indoor spaces including patient's homes and any public transport or work vehicles and we should all continue to maintain two metre distancing whenever possible, including when taking breaks when face coverings cannot be worn. We have a [guide for staff](#) concerning physical distancing in the workplace and I would encourage anyone with any queries to read it or speak with your line manager. We will also continue to encourage members of the public visiting our sites to wear a face covering at all times unless they are exempt.

On a more positive note, I would like to give my congratulations to our staff who have received awards this week for excellence in their respective fields. Isobel Crawford, a Research Midwife from our Glasgow Clinical Research Facility, has been awarded the Gail Woodburn award for Research Nurse/Midwife of the Year from the Scottish Research Nurse and Coordinators Network (SRNCN). The award is to recognise a nurse or midwife who has played a key role in promoting the value of clinical research nursing within the NHS. Isobel was nominated for her determination to support research during the pandemic, when she utilised her transferrable skills to recruit adult patients within Glasgow Royal Infirmary ICU, including some who were seriously ill, to early Covid treatment studies within ICU/HDU as well as taking on the role of Principal Investigator for a study concerning Pregnancy and Neonatal Outcomes during COVID. Congratulations Isobel on your award and thank you for the tremendous and very important work that you have undertaken to support such vital research.

The second award was given to the Clyde IBD team for their work with patients with Inflammatory Bowel Disease. The five-strong nursing team, who support patients across West Dunbartonshire, Renfrewshire and

Inverclyde found success in the Gastrointestinal/IBD Nurse of the Year category at the British Journal of Nursing Awards, with Fiona McCluskey accepting the award at the ceremony on behalf of the entire team. I am delighted that this hard working group of nurses have been recognised in this way and would like to thank you all for the hugely significant work that you undertake and for your commitment to your patients. Congratulations and well done!

Finally, I would like to share a great piece of feedback that I have received about the Urogynaecology team at the New Victoria. The patient notes that having attended the unit on a regular basis for many years, they have continuously received outstanding care and support from the nursing team. Our patient writes: "I have always been treated with absolute respect, and they have always done their very best to provide a level of care that enables me to have a good quality of life and avoid fairly complex surgery. I was seen regularly by Janice and now Claire and am always very grateful for their level of care and competence." It is so important that for patients who have long term health conditions and as a result need to use our services over a period of time, that they have a consistently positive experience. Often such treatment can be challenging for our patients, so to know that when they arrive with us, they will be treated with respect, and can really depend on care they receive, is so vitally important. I would like to add my thanks to the team for doing such a great job. Thank you.

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