

# Core brief

**Message from Jane Grant, Chief Executive  
(12 August 2022, 2.00pm)**

As colleagues will be aware, staffing is an area of challenge, particularly during the summer months, as staff take well deserved holidays, and whilst we continue to experience staff absence due both to Covid and general sickness. I want to reiterate to all of our staff that we are actively doing all we can to address these issues, working in partnership with the Area Partnership Forum.

As is the case across the country, COVID-19 has presented unique staffing challenges and NHSGGC is not immune to this. Our priority is to ensure that we address any potential gaps in staffing levels due to unplanned leave or vacancies, and we already have a number of measures either in place or in the process of being finalised to mitigate this. The positive news is that some 720 Newly Qualified Nurses and Midwives will be joining NHSGGC during September and October. We expect to recruit a further 60 registered nurses during the rest of this year to support our teams on the wards and we also have a further 1,000 people going through the recruitment process for bank staff, which will help to bolster our staff numbers across NHSGGC.

We will continue to share progress and work with our partnership colleagues to address concerns of staff, identify issues and collectively find appropriate resolution. However, we also actively encourage our staff to share their views and raise any concerns you may have with your line manager and through the other channels available to you. I would like to thank all of our staff who continue to work exceptionally hard, despite the challenges faced, to deliver patient centred care. Each of you has made a real difference and, I personally, very much appreciate all that you do.

I am pleased to share with you that the number of COVID patients receiving treatment at our acute sites continues to decline week on week. Likewise, we are seeing a similar picture in our care homes and more generally in our local communities. This is really positive news and I remain hopeful that this downward trend continues. While COVID remains with us, we must keep our focus on doing what we can to stop the spread. This includes maintaining high infection control standards, supporting our patients to receive visitors in the safest possible way and ensuring that we remember to keep up our high hygiene standards whether at work or at home.

I would like to remind staff that ahead of the vaccination portal opening, you will need to access your login details in order to schedule your appointment at your chosen clinic. In order to do this, you will need your username and password. If you are unsure of how to do this or cannot remember your login details, a helpful [video](#) has been produced to show you what to do and you can also find more information on [NHSInform](#). Please remember that all NHSGGC staff continue to be eligible for flu vaccination this year and all those working in patient facing roles are also eligible for a further COVID vaccination, so for the benefit of yourselves, your family, your patients and colleagues, please take up the vaccination you are entitled to.

This week, I would like to share some feedback from a patient about their time on the maternity ward at the QEUH. Our patient writes; "I would like to thank Nelly on nightshift and Eileen on dayshift in the labour suite at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital Maternity Unit. The care that I received from both these midwives during my very first labour was outstanding. I think it is important that they are recognised for the work that they do and the care they provided to me. They are a credit to the NHS. I was terrified about going into labour. They both made me feel safe, helped me remain calm and kept myself and my partner

well informed. Even though my partner was with me, being in the care of Nelly and Eileen I felt as though I had a friend in the room. Thank you for making my experience a good one and for helping me deliver my beautiful baby girl. Also, another thank you to Louise on nights at ward 50 in the QEUH maternity unit. Louise is another fantastic midwife who helped me to establish breastfeeding. Louise has such a great nature, really helped and was kind and nurturing towards me. I was feeling guilty that I didn't know how to breastfeed or how to hand express as I've never done that before and she really took the time to help me with this and explain what to do. She cheered me up when I was feeling like a terrible mum for not knowing how to feed my baby. So thank you Louise, I am truly grateful to you for keeping me going, wiping my tears away and helping me gain confidence. You're an amazing person with a big heart and you are also a credit to the NHS. Thanks again to these three amazing midwife's. Lots of love from a first time mum." This is wonderful feedback about our team at the QEUH and I would like to thank you all for supporting this patient and her family. Thank you.

**It is important to share Core Brief with colleagues who do not have access to a computer.  
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