

# Core brief

**Message from Jane Grant, Chief Executive**  
**(25 November 2021, 12.30pm)**

We will soon be commemorating the first year anniversary of the start of the COVID-19 vaccination programme and I am very pleased to report that we have now reached the milestone of two million vaccinations administered to residents of Greater Glasgow and Clyde. This is a hugely significant marker for the entire team, who have all done a fantastic job of getting us to this point. Thank you to everyone involved, your continued efforts are greatly appreciated.

As staff will have seen, earlier this week, we are moving forward to the next stage of the COVID-19 vaccination programme roll-out. This is due to the extension to the eligibility criteria, meaning that all 16 and 17 year olds will be able to receive a second dose, those aged between 40-49 years are included for the booster dose and there is an additional drive to encourage pregnant mothers to take up the vaccination. I would like to thank all staff members who have already come forward to fill vaccinator roles so far, we have received an outstanding response and I am very appreciative to you all.

While the vaccination uptake within our local communities has been significant, we do continue to see a number of unvaccinated people requiring treatment in our hospitals, including some young people currently receiving care in our ITUs, so we mustn't be complacent and will continue to encourage the public to come forward to be vaccinated. Please help us to make sure that your friends and family are aware of the offer to take up their vaccination and where you can, encourage them to do so.

We were pleased to welcome Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care, Humza Yousaf MSP to our contact tracing facility at Eastbank this morning, where he met with our staff, including some of our new recruits who have recently started in contact tracing roles. The visit focussed on the ongoing requirement to trace close contacts of people who have tested positive for COVID-19 and see first-hand the training scheme that new team members undertake. Our Chairman, Professor John Brown, hosted the Cabinet Secretary at the visit, which I understand he found particularly informative. I would like to thank all staff members who took the time to be involved this morning, it is really important that we take such opportunities to showcase the excellent work of our teams, so I am very grateful to you all for your support.

I would like to share with you, details of some of the work that is underway to deliver our winter workforce plan. I acknowledge that vacancies do exist within our medical and nursing workforce, specifically following completion and placement of our newly qualified nurses and doctors. In order to offset this, a number of rolling, sector and site specific campaigns are underway to attract additional talent to our wards. This also includes us bringing in additional Health Care Support Workers to support our community services.

Our Estates and Facilities team have undertaken an extensive recruitment drive, which will enable greater team resilience throughout the winter and we are continuing to build additional administration support through our Staff Bank Service. This will help us to fill core vacancies as well as support teams who have been impacted by staff absence. The Human Resources Department are also ploughing ahead with our business as usual recruitment campaigns, which have been accelerated to try and fill some of our other key vacancies as swiftly as possible, so that we can continue to do what we can to reduce pressures affecting our existing staff and our services.

Finally, I would like to offer my congratulations to some of our staff who have been recognised for their outstanding work this week. Dr Jenni Burton has been announced as the winner of the British Geriatrics Society (BGS) Rising Star Award for Clinical Quality. Dr Burton is a clinical lecturer in geriatric medicine who divides her time between clinical work in the QEUH and academic work in the University of Glasgow. Congratulations, Jenni, this is a great achievement. Also celebrating are the Peri-Operative Medicines Management Project Team, who won the Hospital Pharmacy Team of the Year at the Scottish Pharmacy Awards. This award recognises the exceptional quality of service and innovation through the use of technology and is a fantastic, very well deserved, result for the team. Many congratulations to you all.

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