

Core brief

**Message from Jane Grant, Chief Executive
(6 April 2023, 1.15pm)**

Along with our Chair, Professor John Brown CBE, and Susanne Miller, Chief Officer, Glasgow City HSCP, I was pleased to attend a visit by the First Minister to the New Gorbals Health and Care Centre this Wednesday. Earlier in the week, the Cabinet Secretary for NHS Recovery, Health and Social Care also joined Professor John Brown, Beth Culshaw, Chief Officer, West Dunbartonshire HSCP and me on a visit to the Clydebank Health and Care Centre.

Both visits gave us an opportunity to showcase the tremendous work of the primary, community and social care teams based in the centres, and also to highlight the significant investment that continues to be made in new community health and care facilities within NHSGGC. My thanks go to all the staff who supported the visits this week.

As colleagues will have seen, from this week, facemasks are no longer compulsory in public areas or when staff are making their way around our hospitals, primary care and wider healthcare settings. This change, I am sure, will be welcomed by colleagues and is an encouraging sign that the COVID vaccination programme continues to provide protection for our communities. Whilst the number of patients with COVID in our hospitals is reducing, we still have more than 400 patients in hospital with the virus. I would therefore urge colleagues to continue to adhere to guidance and to wear facemasks when providing patient care or passing through a clinical area.

I am delighted to share the news of a number of staff successes this week. My congratulations go to Jim Dougan, RAH Catering Manager, and Alan Dougan, Cook Freeze Production Unit Team Manager, who were recently awarded the “Best In Class” in the “4 Nations Challenge” run by the Hospital Caterers Association. Representing Scotland, the NHSGGC team also achieved Gold Salon Culinaire Medals for their winning main course recipe. As the winning team, their main course will be offered to over 400 delegates at the HCA National Forum in Birmingham later this month. Well done to Jim and Alan!

Also gaining recognition this week are the team behind NHSGGC’s DYNAMIC project, which allows COPD patients to receive care and monitor their condition from home. The innovation project, supported by the West of Scotland Innovation Hub, is in the running for the Optimising Clinical Pathways through Digital award at the inaugural Health Service Journal Digital Awards, recognising the contribution and positive impact this work is having on patients in Greater Glasgow and Clyde, Scotland and beyond. The winners will be announced at an awards ceremony later this year. Good luck to Drs Chris Carlin and David Lowe and colleagues at the ceremony which takes place on 22nd June.

Whilst the work of our colleagues is often rewarded, and rightly so, there are other achievements that gain less prominence but are equally important. This week I want to acknowledge two such successes. Firstly, well done to our diagnostics team and e-health colleagues who have completed an essential infrastructure upgrade this week to the voice dictation system used within diagnostic services. This major upgrade was completed a day ahead of schedule with no disruption to services.

Secondly, congratulations go to our Central Decontamination Unit which has received re-accreditation after an unannounced audit inspection to the Cowlares facility. The unit provides a crucial role in the delivery of safe patient care and the team can be rightly proud of the positive report they received from the inspectors.

This week's feedback comes from the parents of a young day surgery patient at the Royal Hospital for Children, who write: "We attended the children's hospital for my son to have day surgery for grommets and adenoids removed.

"My son is very young but also autistic so it was something I was really stressing over, how he would cope after some similar situations prior not having a very positive outcome.

"However, all staff, in particular the anaesthetist, blew me away. The accommodations, understanding and support was phenomenal. At one point the anaesthetist was on the floor playing with my son, on his level and completely taking in his actions and sensory issues and accommodating his plan going forward around these. It was honestly so refreshing and heart-warming to watch.

The difference this made to us as a family was indescribable. I really want to say a huge thank you well done to all staff on day surgery ward." I too want to add my thanks to the day surgery team for your compassion and person centred care for this young patient.

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