

Core brief

**Message from Jane Grant, Chief Executive
(23 March 2021, 11.05am)**

Today marks the one year anniversary of the first COVID-19 lockdown. To most of us it feels like the year that would never end. And in a way, it hasn't yet. We remain under significant restrictions and despite a few months of relaxed rules last year, lives have not quite been able to 'get back to normal'.

With the vaccination programme that is making such tremendous progress there is light at the end of the tunnel, but for today, we should take the opportunity to reflect. We should remember those colleagues who sadly passed away and I would pass on my condolences to their families, friends and colleagues.

We often say it, but this really has been a year like no other. All of our health and social care workers have responded magnificently to the significant pressures faced and have continued to deliver compassionate care throughout.

To those of you who turned to innovation and made significant changes to the way we deliver care, thank you. We could have ground to a halt without all of your efforts. Our e-Health team were at the forefront of this, not least in swiftly modifying our systems to enable patients to be seen remotely and to support many colleagues to work from home.

Recognition is due also to our procurement team, who rose to the enormous challenge of finding the right PPE, in mammoth quantities when the global supply chain was under strain. You did everything possible to keep our colleagues safe and we are indebted to you for the hard work that you all put in to keep our essential supplies moving.

To our staff who changed their day job to be redeployed to an area of greatest need, this took courage. It can be hard enough to change your job or career, but to do so in such a pressurised environment is certainly no mean feat. To those of you who had to change your focus or work from home, our volunteers, Project Wingman teams and those of you who joined us through the course of last year to give your support and expertise to our organisation, I appreciate all of your efforts. You have played such a significant role.

While I have only specifically mentioned some areas of our organisation, I want to say to every member of NHSGGC staff, thank you. Each of us have faced personal and professional challenges. As a team we have pulled together, we have been resolute and resilient.

I thank you all for your resolve and the huge commitment you have made to our NHS, our local communities and each other.