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Elected Members Update
for local MPs, MSPs and Councillors

This update is part of our on-going commitment to keep elected members informed of the latest developments at NHS Fife that may be of interest to you and your constituents. For previous issues of the Elected Members Update, including updates on specific topics, please click [here](https://www.nhsfife.org/news-updates/briefings-for-fife-elected-members-msps-mps-and-councillors/).

To ensure accurate and timely responses from NHS Fife, all enquiries from elected members should be directed to the NHS Fife Chief Executive Office for response and co-ordination at fife.chiefexecutive@nhs.scot.

Members are politely reminded not to approach services or individual members of staff directly for responses.

Main updates

Emergency Department extremely busy

Our Emergency Department has been extremely busy over the last few weeks, and we would appreciate the support of elected members in sharing any messaging that we put out around the most appropriate use of our services.

Where someone’s care is not a critical or life-threatening emergency, they may face long waits or will be appropriately redirected safely elsewhere. If someone thinks they need urgent care, but it’s not a critical emergency, they should call NHS 24 on 111 or contact their GP. In an emergency they should always call 999.

More information about the most appropriate services for constituents can be found [here](http://www.NHSInform.scot/right-care). This outlines services available online, within the community and via minor injuries units.

Over the coming weeks we are redesigning the signage and information displayed in the walk-up to the Emergency Department and in the waiting area. This will both re-enforce messaging around the most appropriate service for a patient’s care, but also better inform them about their journey and what to expect during their time in the Emergency Department. This will be paired with refreshed web content, featuring community language translations as well as British Sign Language.

Potential junior doctor industrial action

We have already begun reviewing our local contingency arrangements ahead of the planned 72 hours industrial action by junior doctors from 12 – 15 July.

Patient safety will remain our priority in the event of the industrial action proceeding, and we are working to help mitigate any potential impact on services. Should there be any disruption, we will communicate directly with any patients affected.

Cervical exclusion audit

In 2021, the Scottish Government announced that action was being taken after it was discovered [that more than 400 women across Scotland had wrongly been excluded from cervical screening](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gov.scot%2Fnews%2Faction-to-address-incorrect-exclusions-from-cervical-screening%2F&data=05%7C01%7CCraig.Hamilton3%40nhs.scot%7C19e72139b754493467da08db7270c7c1%7C10efe0bda0304bca809cb5e6745e499a%7C0%7C0%7C638229600928833764%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Q3PfXtKlnIarUDb7OUJBuHEywr%2BU3%2BqBWGD%2FinwYb4o%3D&reserved=0).

As part of work to address the issue, we have been carrying out a local cervical exclusion audit. This process will shortly be moving into a new phase and women involved in the audit will receive letters with their results.

Those found to have been incorrectly excluded from the cervical screening programme, along with those whom we cannot confirm have been appropriately excluded, will be invited to arrange a clinic appointment. Those who have been correctly excluded from screening will also receive letters to advise this and confirm that no further action is necessary.

Gynaecology enhancement work completed

We've completed works to enhance the gynaecology unit at the Victoria Hospital. Works were due to begin in 2020 but were delayed due to the pandemic. The project resumed last year, and work started in February 2023.

It includes a bespoke triage clinic, a new waiting area, five side rooms, a four-bed bay area, enhanced sound-proofing, and new signage. The new design was informed by feedback from gynaecology patients and clinicians and more information can be found [here](https://www.nhsfife.org/news-updates/latest-news/2023/06/project-to-enhance-gynaecology-unit-at-victoria-hospital-completed/?fbclid=IwAR0RlD6HbWS_j6gIJjkGsXTLVfe2zldqil3iA12FABGYblHvk7QpRDtHQmA&fbclid=IwAR0RlD6HbWS_j6gIJjkGsXTLVfe2zldqil3iA12FABGYblHvk7QpRDtHQmA).

Hot water pipe works at Victoria Hospital

Planned work to replace hot water pipes at the Victoria Hospital started this week. The programme is expected to take 18 months to complete, with a phased approach taken to avoid disruption to patients, visitors and services. More information is available [here](https://www.nhsfife.org/news-updates/latest-news/2023/06/work-to-replace-hot-water-pipes-at-victoria-hospital/).

Blue-green algae warning

As summer gets underway, we're reminding people to look out for blooms of potentially hazardous blue-green algae in waterways.

Blue-green algae can multiply during summer and discolour water making it appear green, blue-green or greenish brown. People and animals can become unwell from contact with water affected by blooms. We're advising the public, especially people undertaking water sports, anglers and dog owners, to be particularly vigilant and avoid contact with algal blooms. More information is available [here](https://www.nhsfife.org/news-updates/latest-news/2023/06/warning-reminder-for-blue-green-algae/).

School Nursing Health Hub

Pupils aged between 12–19 years old enrolled in a Fife school can now text the School Nursing Health Hub for free confidential advice on a range of health and wellbeing issues such as healthy lifestyle, sleep, emotions, relationships, and sexual health.

The hub is a confidential service, and their information will not be shared without consent, unless there are concerns about safety or welfare. The service operates 9am–4:30pm Monday to Friday. More information is available [here](http://www.nhsfife.org/schoolhealthhub/).

Visit from Dunfermline Athletic Football Club

Our children's ward received [a special visit](https://www.facebook.com/nhsfife/posts/pfbid0t9eS9tF5BTAuGvDRA9mvjm1sJbpkrjqz5yJ384A8AEn5voj6YK9bDaaR7mBYiLSXl) from Dunfermline Athletic Football Club's famous mascot, Sammy the Tammy, last week. Sammy was joined by Pars Foundation coaches, Iain Philip and Stevie Tucker, as our young patients got the opportunity to have their photographs taken with the cinch League One trophy, which the Pars received for winning their division last season.

Pharmacy name changes

Several local pharmacies are changing their name this month, following a change in ownership:

* **12th June** - Lloyds Pharmacy, Mid Street, Kirkcaldy, will become Pathhead Pharmacy.
* **27th June** - Lloyds Pharmacy, Bishops Court, Kennoway, will become Kennoway Pharmacy.

Community Chest for Fife Carers

Community Chest for Fife Carers was launched this month with each of Fife’s seven locality areas allocated £50,000. Across Fife there are over 35,000 unpaid carers who look after friends or family affected by illness, disability, mental health or addiction.

Community Chest for Fife Carers will fund projects set up by local groups or charities to create supportive places for these unpaid carers, develop their sense of belonging and improve their wellbeing. The funding is available to any community group or charity based in Fife, who can apply for £1,000 up to £10,000 per project, for up to two years. More information is available [here](https://www.fifehealthandsocialcare.org/news/articles/new-350%2C000-community-chest-fund-for-unpaid-fife-carers-opens-for-applications).

Shared Lives Fife Week

Shared Lives week runs from 26 until 30 June and the Fife Health and Social Care Partnership is using it as a chance to shine a light on the work done by Shared Lives Fife carers, as well as recruit new carers too. This vital service matches adults of any age that need additional support with a carer to help them lead more fulfilling lives.

People who need additional support could have learning or physical disabilities, mental health needs or be an older person who requires some additional support. They could need support for a few hours a week, a short-break or even longer-term living. What’s important is that the match is right for everyone. Carers are self-employed and receive an agreed payment, which is dependent on the assessed support needs of the people they care for.

Anyone interested in finding out more can visit the Shared Lives Week Celebration on Wednesday 28 June from 1 pm until 3 pm at Rothes Halls, Glenrothes.

Covid vaccination

NHS Scotland is offering two infant doses of the Covid vaccine to children aged six months to four years at highest risk. Infants and young children with underlying health conditions are seven times more likely to be admitted to paediatric intensive care units with severe Covid, compared to those without underlying health conditions.

Children at higher risk includes those living:

* with a neurodisability
* with a neuromuscular condition such as cerebral palsy
* with a severe or profound learning disability
* with Down’s syndrome
* with serious genetic or heart conditions
* with lowered immunity due to disease or treatment
* with endocrine disorders, asplenia or dysfunction of the spleen.

There is no need to arrange an appointment. NHS Scotland will contact you if your child is eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine. For more information click [here](http://www.nhsinform.scot/covid19vaccineunder5).

We continue to run [Covid drop-in clinics](http://www.nhsfife.org/dropin) for people aged 12+ looking to receive their spring booster. The clinics are ideal for people who already have an appointment but need to reschedule. Those who have not received an invitation for their spring booster should check NHS inform to ensure they are eligible before attending.

Constituents can book an appointment online or phone the national vaccination helpline on 0800 030 8013. The latest information on local vaccination more generally, including flu immunisation, can be found [here](https://www.nhsfife.org/services/all-services/immunisation/covid-19-vaccination-programme-and-advice/covid-19-vaccination-programme/).

Sharing our messages

We appreciate the support of elected members in sharing our health messages with constituents and on social media.

*All Information correct at time of publishing. Issued by the communications team.*