Issue 76 |13th May 2022

Elected Members Update

for local MPs, MSPs and
Councillors

**Firstly, congratulations to all the councillors who were elected to represent their areas last week – we look forward to forging a constructive relationship with those newly elected and maintaining that relationship with those who were returned.**

This fortnightly 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. We would also encourage you to regularly visit and refer your constituents for the latest news and updates from NHS Fife on our [**website**](http://www.nhsfife.org): or follow us on our social media channels -[**Twitter**](http://www.twitter.com/nhsfife)**,**[**Facebook**](http://www.facebook.com/nhsfife)**,**[**Instagram**](http://www.instagram.com/nhsfife)**.**

**Enquiries**

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 asked not to approach services or individual members of staff directly for responses.

**Covid vaccination**

**Local vaccination overview**

Our covid vaccination programme continues to focus on providing Spring Booster vaccination opportunities to people over the age of 75, those over the age of 12 who are immunosuppressed or clinically vulnerable, and those who are classified as housebound and unable to attend one of our community clinics.

The current uptake of spring boosters for those over the age of 75 is around 90% of those offered an appointment, with around 22,000 vaccines delivered. The uptake of vaccination for those who are immunosuppressed or clinically vulnerable is around 68%, with 966 vaccines administered.

The Joint Committee for Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) has advised that no further groups should be invited for a booster or fourth vaccination at present, with activity focussed on completing the spring booster programme by July.

Locally, we have also seen a positive uptake in the vaccination of children aged 5-11, with around 25% of those eligible taking up this option; this is against a national average of just over 15%.

**Drop-in clinics and appointments**

A mixture of both dedicated children’s drop-in clinics and regular drop-in clinics are being held this weekend. More information on mobile clinics and drop-in sessions can be found [here](http://www.nhsfife.org/dropin). We also continue to encourage anyone eligible for any dose of the vaccine to book their appointment via the [online booking portal](https://vacs.nhs.scot/csp) (people who need to recover their username can do so [here](https://vacs.nhs.scot/csp?id=recover_username)) or by calling 0800 030 8013.

**Test & Protect**

**Testing**

Most people no longer need to take a coronavirus test and should follow guidance on staying at home if unwell. Testing remains available to [specific groups](https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-covid-19#testing) in order to protect highest risk settings and support clinical care. The latest information on testing, isolation, and further support is available [here](https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-covid-19/).

**Other news**

**Methilhaven Surgery**

NHS Fife is to take over the running of Methilhaven GP Surgery on the 1st of August, after the practice partners gave notice of their intention to terminate their General Medical Services contract. Methilhaven Practice has a patient list of around 6,000 people and work is already underway to develop contingency plans to ensure that patients continue to have access to local services until more permanent arrangements are made. The current premises on Methilhaven Road are owned by the Practice partners rather than NHS Fife, and we have been informed that that the building will shortly be marketed for sale. The surgery will, therefore, move temporarily to new premises within the nearby Randolph Wemyss Memorial Hospital and work has already begun to prepare and redevelop an existing part of the hospital to ensure it is fit-for-purpose. The remaining members of the practice team will continue to work with the surgery to ensure continuity for patients.

**Tayview Medical Practice**

Following enquiries relating to Tayview Medical Practice, we thought it may be helpful to include an update around it’s imminent reopening. Tayview Medical Practice suffered considerable damage because of flooding in October 2021. Patient services were maintained throughout this closure from the Practice’s other site in Newport-on-Tay. The damage meant that the Practice had to carry out an extensive programme of repairs on the building. With these remedial works and the subsequent refurbishment now nearing completion, the Practice in Tayport is due to reopen as planned later this month. We have thanked patients for their understanding over recent months while these works have been carried out.

**Landmark referral for Early Cancer Diagnostic Centre**

The Early Cancer Diagnostic Centre (ECDC) in Fife received its landmark 600th referral last week. The service, which was launched 11 months ago, provides quick, streamlined access to diagnostic tests for patients with a suspicion of cancer – and initiates a quick, individualised treatment plan, if required. Diagnostic tests can include blood tests, endoscopy, or imaging, such as a CT scan. Whilst most patients will receive a non-cancer diagnosis, the early detection, diagnosis, and treatment of cancer can be lifesaving. Since the start of the ECDC service:

* more patients are being diagnosed and seen within 21 days
* 84% of patients referred into the service have had cancer ruled out quickly
* 50% of patients are discharged back to GPs for local treatment

For more information on our ECDC, please click [here](http://www.nhsfife.org/ecdc).

**Utrogestan prescribing**

NHS Fife has been approached to provide comment in relation to the prescription of the Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT) drug, Utrogestan, for women in menopause. We confirmed that the treatment has been prescribed in Fife and is considered for prescription on a case-by-case basis.

**Let’s Take a Moment event**

On Sunday the 8th of May, NHS Fife hosted the Let’s Take a Moment event, which encouraged those in attendance or watching online to take some time to reflect upon the challenges of covid over the last few years, as we begin to take strides forward. The gathering featured speeches, poems, and reflections from staff and partners across healthcare services, and featured performances from the Healthy Harmonies NHS Fife staff choir, the Methil and District Pipe Band, and local singer/songwriter, Cammy Barnes. The event can be watched [here](https://youtu.be/K5uJSQ0tihk).

**Free stress management courses**

NHS Fife is providing opportunities for members of the public to attend a free stress management course across May; delivered via the online video platform, Zoom. The course is based on cognitive behavioural therapy and is delivered by our psychology service. It has three 1.5hour sessions, which focus on learning evidence-based methods of dealing with stress. The sessions are designed to be informative rather than a group therapy session and attendees will not be asked to discuss any personal problems. For more information or to book onto a course, constituents can visit: [www.accesstherapiesfife.scot.nhs.uk.](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.accesstherapiesfife.scot.nhs.uk%2F%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR1BM7N1lQlN7zOCkIBmoUkudkqlhovyENzOVyhxnS93Vm8fsvrCs85kDPA&h=AT1oDP-cNKQA1S8LhJDCVzuc5Yk1ncwsdVadBx7fe9tnfRao14yTpw7kJdJBEQNcDZX9pcHJEN0jEHnpWakJ9r62b0_yTKCQMAejpokBGp9XA17YuXgEdZ1SzbjHTg0uqg&__tn__=-UK-R&c%5b0%5d=AT2PRkKWFN6j_VYR7DgZAB2XSYNnyqS9AC8vqSHPXZnHGT7T9Fluy6J8ywhq12SjSPUtd5dOO25naZV-UsJVJPqQ0Nu0qhFMpwF-TJqa0BtsWALAgSsVqnF3877vrGEX1icATQi4qdOyHRMDgIGbyAGOTVNtAzr9CVrMT9r8FzZc0w)

**Volunteer recruitment**

We are looking for volunteers to join our Urgent Care Service Clinical Governance Group. The role helps provide an important public perspective and will help to shape our urgent care services for both mental and physical health. Applications close at the end of the month and more information is available [here](http://www.nhsfife.org/get-involved/communityempowerment/).

**Hospital visiting**

The current hospital visiting arrangements in Fife are that patients can receive at least one visitor. This position remains under regular review and the latest provisions can be found [here](https://www.nhsfife.org/visiting/).

We have used our social media platforms to remind those who are visiting patients in our hospitals to ensure they are up to date with the latest arrangements for that ward by [calling in advance.](https://fife.link/97e8) When visiting a hospital, visitors should remember to:

* regularly sanitise hands
* wear a fluid resistant mask
* refrain from visiting if you are feeling unwell
* take a lateral flow test before your visit

**Mental Health Awareness Week**

NHS Fife is supporting and promoting Mental Health Awareness Week, which this year focusses on the importance of connection. The campaign aims to let everyone living in loneliness know that by coming together we can tackle loneliness and help prevent mental health problems. More information on Mental Health Awareness Week is available [here](https://fife.link/r84i).

Sharing our messages

We appreciate the support of elected members in sharing our health messages and note that you have already been engaging with the topics we have suggested on social media - we are grateful for your support.

Help us to help you keep your constituents informed

NHS Fife would ask our elective representatives to share our regular updates and guidance via their own channels of communications with their constituents. By supporting us you can help to ensure that we can reach as many people as possible across Fife in a timely manner.

Accessible information and translation

NHS Fife continues to provide interpreting and translation services for patients despite there being no face-to-face interpretation currently. These assets and further information can be found [here](https://coronavirus.nhsfife.org/accessible-informationtranslation/).

Additional vaccination information/stats

You can find out about the numbers of people in Scotland who are vaccinated along with data about case numbers, and hospitalisations by accessing the Scottish Government [Daily Update](https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-daily-data-for-scotland/) or by visiting Public Health Scotland’s [Daily Dashboard](https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/phs.covid.19/viz/COVID-19DailyDashboard_15960160643010/Overview)

All Information correct at time of publishing. Issued by:

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