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Elected Members Update   
for local MPs, MSPs and Councillors

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.

**suggests this may be as high as one third of the adult population with 50% of those**

Launch of the High Risk Pain Medicines (HRPM) 3 year patie

**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](mailto:fife.chiefexecutive@nhs.scot). Members are politely asked not to approach services or individual members of staff directly for responses.

**Main updates**

**Ongoing pressure on services**

Our hospitals remain extremely busy. The demand for inpatient beds remains very high, and this coupled with the ongoing difficulties in ensuring the timely discharge of patients to social care services, is restricting of the flow of patients through the hospital system.

Emergency Department presentations continue to be far beyond what we would ordinarily expect at this time of year, with in excess of 250 people regularly presenting in a single day, each of whom have to be assessed, treated and either discharged or admitted. Importantly, all patients who are required to wait are cared for and monitored throughout. We are renewing our ask of people in Fife to use the Emergency Department responsibly. We continue to see people attending with much less serious issues that would be more appropriately treated elsewhere. The Emergency Department is designed to care for those with life threatening emergencies with those who are most unwell prioritised to be seen quickest, and those whose condition is less serious likely to wait longer.

**New service supporting patients undergoing cancer investigations**

NHS Fife has launched a new service to improve the experiences of patients referred to hospital for cancer investigations or treatment.

The Single Point of Contact Hub (SPOCH) is one of the first of its kind in Scotland, and supports patients referred by their GP for the investigation of potential symptoms of bowel or urological cancers.

Consisting of appointment co-ordinators and pathway navigators, the SPOCH team will be able to help with a wide range of queries including advice on appointments, tests, and investigations, as well as directing patients to appropriate services for clinical support.

The SPOCH will be available to keep patients informed and supported throughout their journey - from the point of referral to the exclusion or diagnosis of a cancer by providing a dedicated single point-of-contact for any queries.

For more information, please visit [www.nhsfife.org/SPOCH](http://www.nhsfife.org/SPOCH)

**NHS Scotland's Chief Executive and Chief Operating Officer Visit Queen Margaret and Victoria Hospitals**

We were delighted to welcome Chief Executive of NHS Scotland and Director-General for Health and Social Care, Caroline Lamb, and NHS Scotland’s Chief Operating Officer, John Burns to NHS Fife on Friday 19 August 2022.

The visit began at Queen Margaret Hospital where the delegation visited Day Surgery to speak with staff and learn more about the innovative ways that our clinical teams are working to maximise theatre capacity.

The delegation also visited the Victoria Hospital in Kirkcaldy to see progress made on the new National Treatment Centre for Orthopaedics, which is due to be completed later this year, as well as the Emergency Department, which has seen record numbers of patients in recent months, with much greater proportion acutely unwell. This included the Flow and Navigation Hub, which is helping to assist in the triage of patients and preventing unnecessary presentations at the Emergency Department.

A gallery of photographs from the visit is available on the [NHS Fife website](https://www.nhsfife.org/news-updates/latest-news/2022/08/nhs-scotlands-chief-executive-and-chief-operating-officer-visit-queen-margaret-and-victoria-hospitals/).

**Vaccination clinic to relocate to new site at Lynebank Hospital**

The vaccination clinic at Dunfermline East Church will soon relocate to a new permanent base within Lynebank Hospital.

The clinic at Dunfermline East Church has been used over the summer months and replaced the previous site within the Kingsgate Shopping Centre.

This new site within the hospital will enable a range of different vaccinations including Shingles, Pneumococcal as well as children’s immunisations, to be provided from a single site, rather than only Flu and COVID-19 as was the case previously.

**Hazardous Material Test**

NHS Fife staged a live major incident response event at the Victoria Hospital Emergency Department on Thursday 25th August. This training exercise simulated a real-time scenario where there was an exposure to a hazardous material nearby, with the casualties brought to the Emergency Department at the Victoria Hospital for treatment, allowing teams to test their protocols for the management of this type of scenario.

The exercise had no impact on emergency department services and a public communication was issued in advance of the event to inform the public and prevent unnecessary alarm.

**New Non-Executive Board Members Appointed to Fife NHS Board**

The Scottish Government has confirmed the appointment of two new non-executive members to Fife NHS Board.

The appointments of Colin Grieve and John Kemp have been confirmed by the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care, Humza Yousaf MSP, and both new members will serve on the Board for a period of four years, from 1 October 2022.

For more information on the appointments, visit the announcement on the Public Appointments Scotland webpage using the link below:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/public-appointment-members-appointed-to-fife-nhs-board-2/>

**NHS Fife Thank You Garden Party**

A ‘Thank You’ Garden Party was held on Saturday 03 September 2022 to mark and reflect on the amazing contribution and resilience shown by healthcare staff in Fife throughout the response to the global pandemic.

The event, which was organised following feedback from healthcare staff across Fife earlier this year, replaced the annual Staff Achievement Award which have been suspended for the last 2 years. Attendees were provided with afternoon tea within the Flower Barn at the venue and were invited to enjoy the beautiful walled garden inspired by science and art and the estates woodland walk.

The ‘Thank You’ Garden Party was held at no cost to NHS Fife, with funding for the event provided by the Fife Health Charity and with support from local suppliers. The event was held at the picturesque Backhouse Rossie Estate near Ladybank, with the venue offered to NHS Fife free-of-charge by owners Andrew and Caroline Thomson. Also offering their services as a ‘thank you’ were Stewart’s Drinks, which is based in Rosyth and who provided drinks, crockery and waiting staff for the event.

For those staff unable to attend the Thank You Garden Party, the Fife Health Charity have also agreed to make funds available to support wards and departments who wish to hold smaller localised events.

A gallery of photos from the event is available to view [**here**](https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjA5RaN).

**New No Smoking Legislation Comes into Force**

From 5th September 2022, it is an offence to smoke within 15 metres of a hospital building, with the potential of facing a fixed penalty notice of £50 or a fine of up to £1000 if taken to court.

This is a new law introduced by the Scottish Government.

Whilst NHS Fife will continue to operate a whole of site smoking ban, these new regulations establish **no-smoking** areas directly **outside** **hospital buildings.**  This includes awning, canopies or any other over hanging structure. Enforcement of the regulations will be undertaken by designated officers of the Environmental Health team of Fife Council.

NHS Fife is a health-promoting organisation and is committed to the provision of a healthy, smoke-free environment for staff, service users and their families/carers by reducing exposure to second-hand smoke.

For more information on the new legislation visit [www.gov.scot/nosmokingzones](http://www.gov.scot/nosmokingzones)

**NHS Fife Community Conversation - Focus Group recruitment.**

As part of the on-going development of NHS Fife's new strategy we are looking to recruit a representative sample of the population of Fife to take part in one of our 13 facilitated focus groups to allow us to explore in more detail the themes identified in last year's community conversation survey.

The focus group sessions are scheduled to run from **19th – 30th September 2022**.

To help identify volunteers we are asking interested members of the public to take a few minutes to complete a short selection questionnaire. If successful applicants will be contacted directly no later than the week beginning 12th September 2022 with more information on session dates and timings.

The closing date for applications is **5pm on Sunday 11th September 2022**.

This research will be conducted by Progressive, an independent research company. A dedicated webpage, with information on how to apply to participate in a local focus group, is available at:

[**https://www.nhsfife.org/conversation/**](https://www.nhsfife.org/conversation/)

Elected members are asked to share this link and invitation via your own communications and social media channels to encourage participation in this next phase of public engagement in our strategy.

**Covid**

**Winter booster vaccination**

Appointment letters are currently arriving for older people who require a winter COVID booster, in line with the guidance from the Joint Committee on Vaccinations and Immunisation (JCVI).

The COVID booster jabs will be given at the same time as the flu vaccine to those eligible where possible – evidence shows that administration of both vaccines together is a safe and efficient way to deliver maximum protection over the winter months.

A new vaccination venue will open within Lochgelly Health Centre over four weekends of the programme where drop-in vaccination will be offered to citizens eligible aged 65 and over with no appointment necessary. Patients in Lochgelly and the surrounding area who already have appointments in Kirkcaldy or Dunfermline clinics are also being written to and advised that they can attend the drop-in clinic at Lochgelly instead should they wish to.

Frontline health and social care workers are also eligible for the winter booster jab, with the online portal open now to book vaccination appointments. Appointments for all other priority groups will be made available as the programme progresses – people in those groups should wait until they are contacted or called forward.

More information on winter vaccination is available [here](https://www.nhsinform.scot/winter-vaccines).

**Drop-in vaccination clinics and appointments**

In addition to scheduled appointments, child drop-in clinics are being held next week for young people who still require vaccination. More information on mobile clinics and drop-in sessions can be found [here](http://www.nhsfife.org/dropin). We continue to encourage anyone eligible to book their appointment via the [online booking portal](https://vacs.nhs.scot/csp) or by calling 0800 030 8013.

**Testing**

Most people no longer need to take a covid 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/).

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 the communications team.