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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/).

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

Main updates

Appearance at Scottish Parliament Health, Social Care and Sport Committee

In January 2023, the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee agreed to carry out evidence sessions with NHS Territorial Boards and several special Health Boards. The focus of the sessions was on NHS Board performance, financial sustainability, recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, workplace culture, and workforce.

On Wednesday our chief executive, Carol Potter, gave evidence as part of that process alongside two other Health Board Chief Executives. The appearance can be viewed in full [here](https://www.scottishparliament.tv/meeting/health-social-care-and-sport-committee-june-6-2023).

Fast-track recruitment event

On Thursday the 25th of May, NHS Fife hosted a fast-track recruitment event for healthcare support workers and registered nurses at the University of Dundee’s School of Health Sciences, Kirkcaldy Campus.

The day, which also featured the opportunity for visitors to speak with staff from NHS Fife, Fife College and other organisations, was very well attended and well over 100 people pre-applicants were interviewed at the campus.

Our recruitment and human resource teams are currently working hard behind the scenes to appropriately process the successful candidates; however, we expect to appoint a significant number of those who attended on the day.

Nurse bank recruitment­­

Following nation-wide instruction from the Scottish Government to reduce the use of agency staff, we have launched a campaign encouraging staff working in NHS Fife and beyond to sign up for our nurse bank.

Joining our nurse bank, which already has more than 3,000 people on its books, puts staff in the best position to pick up regular shifts, close to home, and up to five weeks in advance.

Since the campaign was launched around three weeks ago, we have received over 300 sign-ups via our [fast-track online registration](https://www.nhsfife.org/work-with-us/routes-into-care/nurse-bank/) and at our recruitment event.

GP list update

Capacity challenges across Fife mean that many local GP practices are operating full lists. However, practices are continuing to accept new babies and patients or family members who have moved to a specific area.

Several practices in Fife are not accepting requests from patients to move GP registration from one local practice to another. There are several reasons why this is the case - our population is living longer and requiring greater input from their GP, new build housing can put greater pressures on individual practices, and the nationwide shortage of GPs is making recruitment particularly challenging. Most often the pressures on medical practices are as a result of a combination of these factors.

NHS Fife and the Fife Health and Social Care Partnership continue to work closely with medical practices to ensure all patients have access to a GP within their local area.

National Service Scotland, Practitioner Service Division can also assist patients in securing registration at a local GP practice.

Fife doctor at the forefront of pioneering new pregnancy research

A pioneering doctor is at the forefront of new research aimed at helping improve safety during pregnancy.

Although retiring from fulltime work a few years ago, Dr Graham Tydeman remains active in obstetrics and has been involved in developing numerous international training tools aimed at helping medics prepare for real-life scenarios during childbirth.

His latest work has been helping to develop a standardised way to perform cervical cerclage surgery and improve safety during pregnancy. More information is available [here](https://www.nhsfife.org/news-updates/latest-news/2023/05/pioneering-fife-doctor-at-forefront-of-new-research-to-improve-safety-during-pregnancy/).

Cancer treatment waiting times

We recognise the importance of early intervention in improving outcomes for patients with cancer and we continually work to maximise cancer detection and diagnosis cancers so that treatment can be started as soon as possible.

Fife was one of the pilot sites providing a [Rapid Cancer Diagnostic Service](https://www.nhsfife.org/services/all-services/cancer-services/rapid-cancer-diagnostic-service/), which offers earlier access to diagnostic testing to enable patients with less common symptoms of cancer to be diagnosed at an earlier stage in the disease.

Our aim is always to provide the best quality and most effective cancer care and treatment, and we work constructively with Scottish Government to try to achieve this.

The latest cancer waiting times can be found [here](https://publichealthscotland.scot/publications/cancer-waiting-times/cancer-waiting-times-1-october-to-31-december-2022/).

New cancer framework launched

We’ve launched our new Cancer Framework, which sets out how effective cancer prevention, early diagnosis, and high-quality sustainable cancer services will be delivered for those living with and beyond cancer.

The framework has been developed to ensure there is a full-system approach to the delivery of cancer services to support both the increased incidence in cancer, and those living with and beyond a cancer diagnosis in Fife.

More information is available [here](https://www.nhsfife.org/news-updates/latest-news/2023/05/fifes-new-cancer-framework-launched/).

NHS Fife staff pantry

Lia Robinson and Megan Crombie wanted to see more being done for women’s mental

The NHS Fife staff pantry is a new initiative aimed at supporting staff wellbeing by providing access to free non-perishable food items and other essentials, such as toiletries. The concept was developed in partnership with our staff-side colleagues, who have been very supportive of the initiative and, indeed, raised the suggestion at one of our regular Area Partnership Forum meetings.

The pantries are for colleagues and supported by colleagues, with any member of staff who would benefit able to access goods. Likewise, staff can also contribute goods to the pantry at any time as they wish.

Colleagues who may choose to access the pantry include those who have left their wallet at home, had an unexpected change to their working day, or those who may be finding things a little harder in a more challenging financial climate.

Staff pantries are being piloted in our Staff Health and Wellbeing Hubs at Victoria and Queen Margaret Hospitals, and colleagues can access what they need anonymously at any time day or night using their swipe access.

The initiative aims to provide an additional layer of support for busy, hardworking staff but does not seek to replicate what a community organisation such as food bank provides.

Fire at Victoria Hospital

On Tuesday the 16th of May the male public toilet near the main entrance to the Victoria Hospital in Kirkcaldy was wilfully set alight.

The Fire Service attended and dealt with the fire swiftly, managing to contain it to the toilet area. There was, however, a significant amount of smoke and the Accident and Emergency observation ward had to be evacuated as a precaution.

No patients or staff were injured during the incident and the ward was reinstated later that evening, with patients returning to the area.

A 15-year-old boy was charged in connection with the incident.

NHS Fife staff awards

Following a three-year hiatus during Covid, the NHS Fife staff awards will be returning in September 2023.

Taking place at the Dean Park Hotel in Kirkcaldy, the awards celebrate healthcare workers who have made a meaningful difference to patients and colleagues and will include a category voted for by our own staff.

Pharmacy name changes

Lia Robinson and Megan Crombie wanted to see more being done for women’s mental

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

* **2nd June** - Lloyds Pharmacy, St Andrews Community Hospital, will become The Pharmacy @ St Andrews.
* **12th June** - Lloyds Pharmacy, Mid Street, Kirkcaldy, will become Pathhead Pharmacy.
* **27th June** - Lloyds Pharmacy, Bishops Court, Kennoway, will become Kennoway Pharmacy.

NHS Fife Board meeting

The latest NHS Fife Board meeting was held on 30th May. Published papers from the session can be viewed [here](https://www.nhsfife.org/about-us/nhs-fife-board/).

Covid vaccination

We're running [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. They are also open to people yet to complete their primary doses (one and two) of the vaccine. 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.*