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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.

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.

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

Ongoing pressure on services

* Our hospitals remain extremely busy and the demand for inpatient beds continues to be very high.
* Timely discharge of patients to social care services continues to prove challenging. However, colleagues in the Fife Health and Social Care Partnership are working around the clock with care homes and social care providers.
* A&E presentations, including those referred by NHS 24, remain very high.
* Our elective surgical programme continues, albeit in a reduced capacity at the Victoria Hospital. Elective procedures at Queen Margaret Hospital continue as normal.

Hospice relocation

Specialist inpatient palliative care services will relocate from Queen Margaret Hospital on Thursday the 9th of February, as the Victoria Hospice reopens following extensive refurbishment.

Inpatient hospice services had previously been moved temporarily from Kirkcaldy to Queen Margaret Hospital to enable significant improvement works to be carried out. The project, which was part-funded by the Fife Health Charity, has resulted in a full refurbishment and upgrades to facilities for both patients and family members. Improvements were also made to the garden areas to enable better access for patient beds.

Work is ongoing to look at the future delivery of specialist palliative care in Fife, and is being informed by extensive engagement with patients, carers, primary care, social work and the third sector. It is expected that proposals on future delivery of models for palliative care will be taken to NHS Fife Board and the Integration Joint Board later this year.

GP tender process underway

NHS Fife and the Fife Health and Social Care Partnership have now made the contract to deliver services from Kinghorn Medical Practice, Valleyfield Practice, and the Links Practice in Burntisland available on the Public Contracts Scotland website as part of a tender process.

The aim of the process is to attract new GP contractors to take over running of these Practices who can provide the excellent standard of service that patients expect and deserve.

Those interested in taking over the general medical services contracts are being invited to submit a detailed proposal through the PCS website outlining how they would intend to deliver services for patients in any of the three areas. Following the deadline for submissions, a thorough process of assessment and evaluation will be completed for each submission, with any successful bids approved by the NHS Fife Board later this year.

The tender notice can be viewed [here](https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/search/show/search_view.aspx?ID=JAN46920).

Robotic surgery improving outcomes for patients

Over 200 patients in Fife have been treated using a pioneering robotic surgery technique. NHS Fife began using the technology in 2021 and it has since been used across specialties including colorectal, gynaecology, and urology.

The device is controlled by experienced laparoscopic surgeons who operate it from within the theatre, sitting adjacent to the patient. Benefits include faster recovery, reduced scarring, reduced post-operative pain, lower risk of infection, and a shorter hospital stay. More information, including photographs and video, is available [here](https://www.nhsfife.org/news-updates/latest-news/2023/01/robotic-surgery-helping-to-improve-outcomes-for-patients-in-fife/?fbclid=IwAR0DAINWuUMswd6dn7q0ukvh2HbcFpbtkOjTjovi7IWiF6RZ1hhXf6kxkxE).

Queuebuster call handling system

We've launched a new call handling system across our acute outpatient services. Queuebuster helps us better manage call queues to improve efficiency and the patient experience. During busier times, the system lets callers know their place in any queue. If someone has queued for five minutes, they will be offered a call back, allowing them to carry on with their day. Plans are now in place to increase the number of services using Queuebuster. More information is available [here](https://www.nhsfife.org/news-updates/latest-news/2023/01/queuebuster/).

Deputy Chief Medical Officer visit

Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Dr Nicola Steedman, and Interim Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Professor Marion Bain, visited several our hospitals last Friday (20th January).

The visit was one of a series of trips to Boards across Scotland. Dr Steedman and Professor Bain visited Randolph Wemyss Memorial Hospital to learn about the work going on to support primary care services in the local area. The visit then moved to the Victoria Hospital, where Professor Bain and Dr Steedman met with staff in A&E, admissions units, rapid triage, and ward 6.

The delegation later made the short journey to Queen Margaret Hospital, where they met with staff in theatres to learn about the new and innovative day-case procedures carried out there, as well as visiting ward 5 to find out more about how clinical staff are working closely with the Fife Health and Social Care Partnership to improve the discharge process. More information is available [here](https://www.nhsfife.org/news-updates/latest-news/2023/01/deputy-chief-medical-officers-visit-to-fife/).

Video highlighting steps to prevent winter illness

With various viruses circulating in our communities, our Director of Public Health, Dr Joy Tomlinson, has recorded a video for social media to remind people of the simple steps they can take to help stop their spread. Viruses such as flu, Covid, norovirus and RSV can make all of us unwell, but can be especially serious for those of us who are more vulnerable like the elderly, and those people with certain health conditions. More information is available [here](https://www.nhsfife.org/news-updates/latest-news/2023/01/help-us-to-reduce-the-spread-of-winter-viruses/).

Weight management app

NHS Fife has funded a new weight-management app designed to support long term healthy habits and improve overall health.

Second Nature monitors progress by tracking weight and daily steps, provides 1:1 support from a registered nutritionist or dietitian, interactive content, and many other benefits. More information is available [here](https://www.nhsfife.org/media/37912/second-nature-leaflet.pdf).

Staff menopause support

Managing menopause symptoms can be challenging. Whilst everybody’s experience is unique, understanding more about what is going on and where to find support is important. A new dedicated menopause support section has been created on our staff app, StaffLink, which highlights a range of resources and support, as well as providing further information for colleagues and managers. The new section includes:

* Information on NHS Fife’s regular menopause support drop-in sessions for staff
* Advice videos from experts providing further information and dispelling myths, along with women recounting their own experiences
* Links to useful websites and apps providing further support

Vaccination

Covid vaccination

The [online vaccination portal](https://www.nhsinform.scot/wintervaccines) remains open for those who are eligible to book their appointment. They can also book an appointment by calling 0800 030 8013.

Drop-in sessions are also being provided across Fife, where appointments are not required. The latest information on these sessions can be found [here](http://www.nhsfife.org/dropin).

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 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.