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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

Postponement of elective procedures following decontamination unit damage

Last week, we took the decision to postpone some elective surgical procedures, following damage to the ceiling in the Central Decontamination Unit at Ninewells Hospital.

NHS Tayside provides the decontamination and sterilisation of surgical equipment for NHS Fife and, due to the damage, this service had to be suspended. However, despite a small number of postponements earlier in the week, the matter was quickly resolved with local disruption minimised. More information is available [here](https://www.nhsfife.org/news-updates/latest-news/2023/04/nhs-fife-has-had-to-postpone-some-elective-procedures-today-following-damage-to-the-central-decontamination-unit-at-ninewells-hospital/).

Population health and wellbeing strategy

Since 2021, NHS Fife has been in dialogue with local communities to develop our new Population Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

The strategy, which is available online, outlines four key priorities for the next five years and declares our vision and intent to reduce health inequalities and drive improvement in health and wellbeing.

Key to this will be our continuing recovery from the pandemic, which has impacted the physical and mental wellbeing of our communities. Read our strategy [here](http://www.nhsfife.org/strategy).

High Valleyfield, Links and Kinghorn Medical Practices

Following a period of initial tendering for High Valleyfield, Links and Kinghorn Medical Practices, we have now completed the process of appraising notes of interest for the three sites combined.

The team are following national procurement guidance to ensure due diligence and it is anticipated that any recommendations will be progressed for decision and implementation by summer.

Fife Health Charity grants for NTC – Fife Orthopaedics

During the planning and construction stage, our new National Treatment Centre – Fife Orthopaedics, received two grants totalling over £700,000 to improve the patient and staff experience.

The Fife Health Charity committed its single largest grant of £618,000 to integrate audio-visual technology within the centre's surgical theatres. The enhancement enables staff to visualise stages of surgery, improves multidisciplinary working, and changes the way training, teaching, and learning experiences are delivered to staff and trainees.

In addition, Fife Health Charity awarded £120,000 to deliver other environmental improvements. More information is available [here](https://www.nhsfife.org/news-updates/latest-news/2023/03/fife-health-charity-funds-key-projects-in-new-national-treatment-centre/).

Pharmacy cold calls

Following local reports from Valleyfield that bogus calls were being made to people around charges for pharmacy services, we released a statement advising patients not to provide credit or debit card details to any cold callers.

We stated there are no charges for prescriptions provided in Scotland, and this includes those delivered by local community pharmacies to those unable to collect their medicines.

We also advised we would never advise patients to provide details to cold callers requesting payment for any healthcare services, and to report any possible fraudulent calls of this nature to Police Scotland.

New app making pre-assessment easier for orthopaedic patients

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

We've launched a new app for patients about to undergo orthopaedic surgical procedures.

The Elsie app provides updates and information around subjects like fasting and medication. It also allows patients to communicate with their pre-assessment team and complete their pre-op questionnaires at home.

In some cases, patients will be able to carry out pre-op assessments on the app, avoiding the need for hospital visits. More information is available [here](https://www.nhsfife.org/news-updates/latest-news/2023/04/new-pre-surgery-app-improves-communication-between-healthcare-staff-and-patients/).

Sickness absence

After it was raised at the latest NHS Fife Board meeting, we were asked by local media to provide comment relating to our staff absence rates.

We stated that sickness absence in Fife increased over winter, as it did elsewhere in the country. Local absence was exacerbated by the prevalence of winter viruses, like flu, and affected all areas of the organisation.

Our staff continually show their dedication to patients; however, our strict guidance was not to present for work when displaying cold or flu-like symptoms to help us best protect vulnerable patients and colleagues.

Ramadan food and beverage bags

During the month of Ramadan, we have been showing our support to those fasting by providing food and beverage bags for staff.

These bags have been distributed weekly to the Victoria, Queen Margaret, Cameron, and Glenrothes hospital sites as well as being available upon request, and in our staff hubs for collection.

Review of interpreting and translation services
We're reviewing our interpreting and translation services.

If you represent an area with a community where English may not be spoken as a preferred language, please consider sharing [this survey](https://fal.cn/3xoR8) within any networks you may have access to.

Covid vaccination

The offer of first and second doses for people who are not at higher risk of severe coronavirus ends in Scotland on 30 June 2023. Please consider encouraging constituents to come forward as soon as possible if they haven’t already had their initial doses.

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/).

Spring booster appointments are being offered between the 11th of April and the 30th of June. Constituents are recommended to have the spring booster this year if they:

* are aged 75 years or over (by the 30th of June)
* live in a care home for older adults
* are aged 5 years or over (by the 1st of April) and have a weakened immune system

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/).

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