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

**Main updates**

**Ongoing pressure on services**

Our acute and community hospitals remain extremely busy due to an increased demand for inpatient care caused by both Covid and non-Covid-related conditions.

Attendances at our Emergency Department continue to be well beyond anything we have seen before, with our highest daily attendances on record having come in recent weeks and months. Covid-related absence across our health and social care system - as well as difficulties in ensuring the timely discharge of patients to social care services and local care homes due to the virus - is further exacerbating the pressure upon our beds, leading to patients often waiting longer within the Emergency Department as a result.

We continue to deliver urgent surgical procedures and most of our non-urgent surgical programme, however, the increase in pressure we are seeing has required us to temporarily postpone some elective procedures.

**Hospital visiting stays at one visitor per patient**

Hospital visiting remains at one visitor per patient. Essential visiting continues to be applied in areas where patients are being treated whilst positive – this includes where a patient is receiving end of life care, or to support someone with a mental health issue, learning disability, autism, or dementia where not being present would likely cause the patient to become distressed.

**Methilhaven Surgery**

Methilhaven Surgery has now officially moved from Methilhaven Road to temporary premises at Randolph Wemyss Memorial Hospital in Buckhaven, as NHS Fife takes over the running of the practice. The new facility is based on Level 1 of the hospital in what was previously the Wellesley Unit. Access to the Practice is via the side entrance of the hospital, with a lift available for those with reduced mobility. Alongside the existing administrative staff at the surgery is a highly trained and experienced multi-disciplinary team, made up of existing and additional clinicians, including locum GPs, Advanced Nurse Practitioners, Practice and Treatment Room Nurses, Phlebotomists, Physiotherapists, Mental Health Nurses, Paramedics and Pharmacists. Patients requiring appointments will be seen by the most appropriate member of the multi-disciplinary team based on their individual health needs. The telephone number for Methilhaven Surgery is unchanged - 01333 426913 - and additional staff have been made available to answer telephone calls.

**Kinghorn Medical Practice**

We have been asked to respond to enquiries from local press around the ongoing challenges facing GP provision at Kinghorn Medical Practice. Across the UK, there is a significant shortage of GPs, meaning there are far more vacancies than GPs. This shortage is affecting Kinghorn Medical Practice along with several others in Fife. NHS Fife and the Fife Health and Social Care Partnership took over the running of Kinghorn Medical Practice in April last year, after the GP partners ended their General Medical Services contract. To help address the issue in the short term, a multi-disciplinary team of healthcare professionals, including physiotherapists, mental health nurses, pharmacists and advanced nurse practitioners are working to support the locum medical staff. These are highly trained, experienced healthcare professionals who provide patients with a high standard of care, while we work to develop more permanent and longer-term solutions to improve GP cover.

**Outpatient/inpatient national targets**

Following announcement of the Scottish Government’s plans to eradicate waiting times more than two years, NHS Fife has been asked by local and national media whether we would be able to meet the target for outpatients by the end of August 2022, and inpatients by the end of September 2022. We confirmed that we expect to meet these targets for all but a very small number of people.

**Near Me community hubs**

NHS Fife is to launch a series of new Near Me community hubs, which will give patients access to our simple, safe, and secure video appointment service for planned health and social care appointments at sites close to their home. The community hubs, which build upon the existing service provided to patients in their homes via video call, are available by appointment only, and will support those who do not readily have access to digital devices, or who do not have an appropriate environment to join a call at home. Currently, community hubs are due to launch in four locations and more information will be made available in due course:

* Fife Voluntary Action, 16 East Fergus Place, Kirkcaldy
* Fife Voluntary Action, Pentland Park, Saltire Centre, Glenrothes
* Methil Customer Service Centre, Wellesley Road, Methil
* St Andrews Community Hospital

**Thank You event**

On Saturday 3 September, NHS Fife will host a “Thank You” event to reflect upon the amazing contribution and resilience shown by all colleagues across the organisation throughout our response to the global pandemic. The event was formulated from the results of a staff survey earlier this year, where we asked our staff several questions about an event, including what format it would take. The resulting garden party will be funded by the Fife Health Charity and will take place at Blackhouse Rossie Estate. NHS Fife will also be offering the option of free coach transfer from our main hospital sites, for those that require transport, to and from the event. With buses running from QMH Dunfermline, VHK Kirkcaldy (Via Glenrothes Hospital) and Stratheden Hospital, Cupar. The Fife Health Charity has also agreed to make funds available to hold localised ward or departmental events in September.

**Defence Employer Recognition Scheme**

NHS Fife has been recognised for our continued commitment to the armed forces community with the renewal of the [Defence Employer Recognition Scheme Silver Award](https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn%3Ali%3Aactivity%3A6960602243217661953). Launched in 2014, the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme encourages employers to support defence and inspire others to do the same. NHS Fife’s Silver Award is our second and recognises flexibility around the training commitments of reservists and the support we provide to instructors, veterans, military spouses, and partners. Reservists are a reserve military force, who can be called upon to support defence efforts, but have careers outside the armed forces.

**Theatres Open Day**

NHS Fife is hosting an Open Day at the Victoria Hospital’s surgical theatres to help encourage registered nurses, or those soon to graduate, to pursue a career in the rewarding field of theatres and anaesthetics. The Open Day takes place on the afternoon of Friday 12th August where attendees can:

* Take a tour of our theatre suite
* Visit our ground-breaking new robotics theatre
* Take part in a Q&A with a consultant anaesthetist and scrub practitioner
* Learn about the comprehensive training opportunities available
* Meet our team of on-site clinical educators

Those who are interested can register via an [online form.](https://fal.cn/3qIwF?fbclid=IwAR1DX1Hm4sgxJNqRdGXkiC6QSFrmyQcf-jrj6qZjTrtujy6kle5tcD6e7GU)

**Saline pharmacy appeal**

Saline and Steelend Community Council recently used local media to raise concerns over the rejection of a recent application to open a new pharmacy in Saline. NHS Fife’s Pharmacy Practices Committee met in March to consider the proposal, however, following full consideration which included submissions from local interested parties, the committee voted to reject the application. As per the regulations, the applicant has exercised their right to appeal the decision, which will be heard by National Appeal Panel in due course.

**Scottish Health Awards**

We are encouraging people to celebrate someone from NHS Fife who has gone the extra mile by nominating them for a Scottish Health Award. The national awards are an opportunity to shine a light on those who have made a positive difference in the lives of those that they care for, or who support the wider NHS in crucial non-patient facing roles. Nominations close on the 21st of August and more information can be found [here](http://www.scottishhealthawards.com).

**World Day Against Trafficking in Persons**

Last week, NHS Fife marked World Day Against Trafficking in Persons on our social media channels. Our messaging emphasised that whilst many people think that people trafficking only takes place in big cities, it’s taking place on our doorstep. Across Scotland, the crime has been identified in 27 of Scotland’s 32 local authority areas – including Fife. Every year, thousands of men, women, and children fall into the hands of traffickers, in their own countries and abroad. If anyone thinks that they may have information relating to human trafficking they should contact:

* National Human Trafficking Unit 0141 532 2723
* Police Scotland on 101 for non-emergencies or 999 for emergencies
* Modern Slavery Human Trafficking Unit 08447782406 or modern.slavery@nca.x.gsi.gov.uk

**Covid**

**Autumn booster programme**

Following final advice on the Autumn Covid-19 booster programme from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI), the following groups will be offered an additional booster in the Autumn:

* residents in a care home for older adults and staff working in care homes for older adults
* frontline health and social care workers
* all adults aged 50 years and over
* those aged 5 to 49 years in a clinical risk group, including pregnant women
* those aged 5 to 49 years who are household contacts of people with immunosuppression
* carers aged 16-49 years

**Those not in the groups identified in guidance are not eligible for an Autumn booster at this time.**The Scottish Government and NHS Boards are considering how best to implement the guidance as effectively as possible and more information around the arrangements in Fife will follow in due course.

**Care home visitors reminded to follow latest guidance**

Visitors to care homes are being reminded to follow the latest guidance to help reduce the numbers of vulnerable residents contracting Covid. Visitors are being encouraged to test for the virus before visiting elderly loved ones. Home Covid test kits remain free-of-charge for those visiting care homes and hospitals, and information on how to order test kits is available [here](https://test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/order-lateral-flow-kits/eligibility-scotland). Visitors are also being reminded not to attend if they have any cold or flu-like symptoms, regardless of how mild, and even if they test negative for Covid. Advice for people visiting care homes has changed and general information is available [here](https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/coronavirus-covid-19/care/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-visiting-loved-ones-in-an-adult-care-home). Friends and family are encouraged to check any additional protections with individual Care Homes before they visit.

**Drop-in vaccination clinics and appointments**

A mixture of child and adult drop-in clinics are being held this week. More information on mobile clinics and drop-in sessions can be found [here](http://www.nhsfife.org/dropin). We 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) 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. The community asymptomatic testing service concluded at the end of April. 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.