



Message from Simon Bokor-Ingram, Interim Chief Officer

Dear colleagues,

The weekend and the first 2 days of this week are a reminder that winter is just around the corner. Yes, the temperature has definitely dropped and there has been a real pressure on hospital beds, with community services needing to respond to increased need also.

There is an urgent need to press on with Home First, ensuring that we can reduce hospital admissions and expedite hospital discharges quickly. For the elderly, the de-conditioning in hospital happens rapidly and is difficult to reverse, taking far longer than the time spent in hospital.

Integration is about working across the system and Home First is now part of the Moray Transformation Board which also oversees the development of Dr Gray's Hospital. Joined-up thinking and working is going to be the only way to make the system work for the people of Moray.

Dr Graham Taylor will be stepping down from the Integration Joint Board (IJB) at the end of the month to focus more on his Practice. I am very grateful to Graham for all his work as a GP Clinical Lead, a role he has filled for 10 years. In my short time here I have really appreciated Graham's expertise on a number of topics including the clinical governance agenda. Dr Lewis Walker continues as GP Clinical Lead and we will look to fill the post vacated by Graham in due course.

Kind regards,

Simon

Day services and respite – Preparations are ongoing for the phased return of day services following the publication on Monday of the Scottish Government's 'Guidance to support the safe re-opening and delivery of building-based day services for adults'.

During lockdown a specialist service has been maintained at Burnie in Buckie for a limited number of individuals with complex support needs. Respite beds have also been provided at the temporary Duffus Wing residential care setting in Elgin.

Our aim is to see some of our day services reopen by the end of September/start of October.

The majority of building-based day services for older people and adults with learning disabilities were paused in March following Scottish Government advice that day services posed significant risks to client groups.

Health & Social Care Moray COVID-19 update – 02.09.20

The national restrictions imposed due to covid-19 have been particularly difficult for individuals with substantial and complex social care needs, their families and carers and the impact of the closure of these settings on supported people and their families cannot be underestimated. Feedback from carers and our staff is that supported people have struggled with the disruption to their routine and loss of contact with their friends, and families are under considerable strain.

We appreciate all that families continue to do to support their loved ones at home during these challenging times and understand their wish to see day services re-opened as soon as possible.

As people would expect, service user and staff safety and health and wellbeing is at the forefront of our decision-making around the remobilisation of respite services including day services, short breaks and shared lives services to ensure people receive the support they need while meeting the requirements of all core public health measures in relation to the prevention and control of the spread of infection.

A Moray short life working group, supported by the Care Inspectorate and Health Protection Scotland, is progressing the remobilisation plans and procedures which need to be in place to allow each building to reopen in a way which is safe for both the people using it and the staff working in it. This includes risk assessments in terms of transport, catering, physical distancing requirements, PPE, infection prevention and control measures.

Adapting services in line with the guidance is likely to involve changes to capacity, opening times and frequency of attendance. We will ensure effective communication with supported people and their families so that they know what to expect prior to returning to their service, and with staff to ensure they understand and follow new procedures to keep everyone safe.

Recovery planning – As the Moray partnership progresses with recovery planning, we continue to capture information on risks which may adversely affect our ability to progress prioritised mobilisation.

Increasing staff absence due to the requirement to isolate as their children have been sent home from school with possible covid symptoms, is already putting some stress on the system.

We continue to monitor staff absence and promote guidance and support to staff regarding testing at the Elgin site which can also be accessed by their family members.

System flow – System flow is one of the key challenges to be addressed through the Moray Transformation Board which has oversight of the Dr Gray's Hospital redesign and the Home First programme in Moray as we continue to take forward learning from covid-19 and opportunities for redesign.

Health & Social Care Moray COVID-19 update – 02.09.20

We maintain our focus on improving our performance in relation to delayed discharge and appropriate prevention of admission. Our community teams have worked hard to support people in their own homes where it has been safe to do so, but we continue to see admissions for frail elderly people and the challenge is to support people to maintain as much function so they can remain living in their own home.

Care Homes – The joined-up approach to strengthening relationships between the independent care sector in Moray and the wider partnership continues to impact positively on the management of the pandemic in the care homes.

All homes are maintaining their good position and are working at pace to complete the work necessary to restart indoor visiting – of particular importance now that the weather is turning colder.

PPE – The social care PPE hub has now fully transferred to the Joint Equipment Store at Pinefield in Elgin. There will be an ongoing requirement for the provision and distribution of PPE to Option 1 Direct Payment personal assistants/carers and to unpaid carers.

Mobile testing units - Mobile testing units which have been run by the army during the coronavirus pandemic have now been handed over to the Scottish Ambulance Service.

The mobile units operate alongside the static drive-through testing centres and coronavirus testing in hospital, care homes and community and play an important role in NHS Scotland's Test and Protect programme.

Nationally, 500 new jobs will be created by the transfer and the jobs will remain in place for as long as the service is needed.