

Dear Colleagues,

Two articles in today's update where we have folk new into roles. A warm welcome. If you had asked me a couple of months ago if recruitment was difficult, I may have responded high on impossible. I have been hearing for the last week from a number of you about successes in recruitment, both from within and from out with Moray.

Success breeds success. I am mindful of the posts that continue to prove very difficult to recruit to, but having more of our vacancies filled makes Moray a more attractive proposition to potential candidates. And if the weather would warm up a bit that would be helpful!

And a final reminder on completing the Census - let none of us be losing money over not completing this! More at the end of today's update.



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Covid position

The covid position across Grampian continues to show welcome signs of improvement with steady declines in caseload across all age groups, in particular among children of school age.

This is encouraging news, particularly as we are also seeing a rise in the number of staff returning after a period of Covid-related absence which is helping to ease some of the pressure on the health and social care system.

Hospital admissions for covid have shown a significant decrease while admissions with covid (not hospital onset) remain high but stable and hospital onset cases continue to show signs of reducing.

Covid vaccination programme

In addition to visits to care homes and housebound residents, outreach vaccination clinics are being held around Moray to deliver the spring dose of the Covid vaccine to people aged 75 and over. Vaccination uptake current stands at 52% (5,018) for this cohort.

To date, 89.8% of Moray's population aged 12+ (75,508) has had a first dose of the vaccine, 85.5% (71,916) a second dose and 73.3% (61,642) a booster or third dose. Figure are not yet available for 5-11 year olds.

The Fiona Elcock Vaccination Centre continues to offer first and second doses, booster and spring booster – depending on eligibility. The centre will be closed on the May Day bank holiday on 2 May. From Monday 9 May, the centre will be open Monday to Saturday, 10.15am-5.30pm, and closed on Sundays.

Adult autism assessment services comes to Moray

A Grampian-wide adult autism assessment service is now in place following the expansion of the service to Moray.

The multidisciplinary Adult Autism Assessment Team (AAAT) began working together in 2021 to develop a sustainable pathway for adults in Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire seeking autism assessment.

Two Moray clinicians have now been welcomed to the team which shares information with GPs and other health partners on how to help people access the service and is using social media to promote the option of making a self-referral.



On receipt of a referral, people are offered a short triage appointment (20 minutes) with a member of the team and given further information about the assessment process which now includes in-person appointments in Moray.

The self-referral form can be downloaded from the Hi-Net Health Improvement Network website [here](#).

Refugee resettlement programme

A local authority resettlement team is being established to co-ordinate Moray's response to arrivals from Ukraine.

The newly recruited team will work alongside national government and local partners to take forward delivery of the Homes for Ukraine scheme which officers from Health & Social Care Moray have been leading on.

The scheme supports Ukrainian refugees to find safety in the UK through sponsorship from the public

and many Moray residents have applied to be hosts. The local resettlement team will lead on planning and preparation for arrivals including housing, relevant health and social care support, assistance with English language provision, employability support and social integration, to ensure needs are understood and met.

The resettlement team can be contacted at refugeeresettlementteam@moray.gov.uk and further information is available on the Moray Council website [here](#).

Still time to complete the Census

With the national Census deadline just days away, 700,000 households across Scotland have yet to fulfil their legal responsibility and submit their completed return.

National Records of Scotland (NRS) has reported that eight out of every 10 households in Moray have completed their census. While Moray is one of only seven local authority areas with a response rate of over 80%, no area has yet to achieve the 85% target level.

With the census due to close on 1 May, targeted efforts are being stepped up to drive up the response rate. Residents are reminded that failing to submit their return could result in prosecution and a fine of up to £1000.

Paul Lowe, Chief Executive of NRS, said: “The data collected through the census is invaluable to informing a range of decisions on the delivery of services, infrastructure and the allocation of public money in both the wider context and also specifically in relation to health. However, for the census to deliver its purpose and many benefits we need to have robust levels of response, not only at national but also local level, to ensure that our data reflects the make-up and needs of our diverse communities.”

Reminder letters have been issued to addresses that have not yet responded and field teams are undertaking home visits. Help and support to complete the census is available on the website census.gov.scot or via the free helpline 0800 030 8308. Paper forms are still available on request for those who need them and these can also be provided in alternative formats and languages.

