

System pressures

Pressure remains high across the entire health and care system in Moray and the position is similar in Grampian and across Scotland.

Much of this is due to the number of positive cases of Covid within our hospitals, care homes and communities. This is combined with planned and unplanned staff absence, maximum occupancy levels in our hospitals with high volumes of frail and ill patients, and delayed transfers of care.

There has been sustained pressure on our teams at the front door of Dr Gray's Hospital who are working diligently to triage patients and prioritise them based on clinical need. Patients have, however, experienced long waiting times.

With our partners we have issued further appeals to the public across our digital and social channels to support us by not attending the Emergency Department if their condition is not an emergency as it is likely they will receive more appropriate and quicker treatment elsewhere.

By calling NHS 24 on 111 they will be assessed over the telephone and referred to the right healthcare professional. People may need to wait a while for their call to be triaged, but calling NHS 24 from the comfort of their own home can avoid unnecessary trips to hospital.

People who attend in non-emergency situations may be redirected to more appropriate services to help Emergency Departments run more efficiently.

TV series to return

Following the success of the television documentary series, Rescue: Extreme Medics, which covered the work of the Scottish Trauma Network, Channel 4 has commissioned a second series. Filming will begin this summer and will once again include teams from NHS Grampian, the Scottish Ambulance Service and other emergency services who bring life-saving treatment to patients in remote locations where fast access to hospital is not possible.

Maternity plan submitted

Following submission of the initial draft plan for maternity services in Moray to the Scottish Government, last week representatives from NHS Grampian and NHS Highland had a positive discussion with Health Secretary Humza Yousaf.

Mr Yousaf commended both boards for the ambitious timescale they have set out to achieving the Moray networked model by the end of 2023 and added: "It is right now to allow some time for the plan and associated documents to be scrutinised and discussed in more detail."

Prof Linda De Caestecker, recently retired as director of public health at NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, has been asked by the government to provide additional external input, oversight and guidance.

The draft plan, along with further information on elective caesareans and a briefing prepared for Elected Members, is available on the NHS Grampian website here: <https://bit.ly/3OZ18ky>

Chief Social Work Officer

With the impending retirement of Jane Mackie in October, recruitment is underway for a Head of Service who also meets the eligibility to be appointed Chief Social Work Officer. The role offers an exciting and challenging opportunity to join Health & Social Care Moray's senior leadership team and ensure the voice and values of social work and a rights based approach are central to driving the transformation and continuous improvement of services.

The Chief Finance Officer post remains vacant and is being covered on a temporary secondment. Discussions are continuing with the Council and NHS finance leads to look at recruitment options to try and attract a suitable candidate.

National Care Service Bill events

There is an opportunity to learn more about the National Care Service (Scotland) Bill which would give Scottish Ministers the authority to transfer social care responsibility from local authorities to a new, national service and ask questions at sessions organised by the Scottish Government. If you would like to attend the virtual events, you can register online for the following dates:

- Thursday 21 July, 11am to 12pm

- Tuesday 9 August, 6pm to 7pm
- Monday 22 August, 10am to 11am (with BSL interpretation)

Booking details and up to date information relating to the development of the National Care Service, including policy documents, evidence papers, and presentations in alternative formats, are available at:

<https://www.gov.scot/policies/social-care/national-care-service/>

Beat the scammers

Nobody – whether an individual or a business – wants to be the victim of a scam and suffer the financial loss, worry and frustration that it causes. Police Scotland, the Scottish Business Resilience Centre and Royal Bank of Scotland are raising awareness of this summer's top scams.

1. Holiday fraud: online scammers use current pressures on the travel industry to exploit consumers when booking accommodation. Ensure your booking is covered by the Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA), and pay by credit card, which may offer you better protection.
2. Ticketing fraud: With sporting and music events back on the summer's social calendar, people need to be mindful about where they buy their tickets. Buy tickets from the official event promoter only, and be alert to anyone asking for ticket payment via bank transfer, which could make it more difficult for you to recover your funds.
3. Scam mail: Scammers entice victims via post or emails with an unbelievable offer or competition, typically targeting the elderly or vulnerable. Potential victims should be wary about sharing personal details and being offered so-called prizes from competitions or draws you didn't enter.