



Dear Colleagues,

I remarked to someone today that who would have thought a year ago we would be doing things so differently now, and that it has become the norm.

I don't think twice before speaking to folk on Teams, through video conferencing. I don't need to be in the

same room to interact with people, to do business, to ask them how they are doing.

Travel time saved to get on with other work; reduced carbon footprint; able to meet with folk wherever they are in multiple locations. We adapt quickly.

With restrictions easing from Friday, let's not undo things where we have made true progress. Innovation is everywhere - we will need to continue adapting as we meet new challenges that emerge as a result of covid and its legacy a year on.

**Simon Bokor-Ingram,
Chief Officer**

Covid rates – There has been a levelling off of Covid positive infections across Scotland and also within Grampian. However with staff and pupils returning to school this week and more activity in the retail sector, Public Health is anticipating a rise in cases.

There were 42 positive cases in Moray over the seven days to 10 April, giving a positivity rate of 2 per cent. This is higher than the Scotland figure of 1.7 per cent and the rates in Aberdeen City (1.4), Aberdeenshire (0.9) and Highland (0.7).

The number of contacts per positive case is currently 2.9 nationally. Grampian was around this figure (2.8) in February, however Test and Protect has recorded that this has increased to 4.2 – highlighting that more people are mixing.

Whilst this is not currently being reflected in the number of hospital admissions in Grampian, it is something which is being monitored closely as restrictions start to ease. The scale, shape, and timing of any resurgence remains highly uncertain.

Vaccination programme – Vaccination uptake in Moray remains high. Just over 60 per cent of the adult population have received their first dose of a Covid-19 vaccine. 15 per cent of Moray residents have now had their second dose which provides them with the highest and longest lasting degree of protection against coronavirus.

There has been a slowdown in first vaccinations over April as a result of national supply issues and teams are focused on utilising existing vaccine stock to deliver second doses to those at greatest risk from Covid-19.

Anyone who hasn't yet been offered a first appointment and is aged 50 and over, is an unpaid carer, or who has a condition which puts them at increased risk, should complete the Missing Appointment form on NHS Inform without delay. If they have not received a response, follow up contact should be made with the Moray booking team 0345 337 9899.

It is anticipated that NHS Grampian will have met the mid-April timeline of offering a first vaccination to everyone in the top nine groups. The reduction in supply means those in the remaining cohorts (those under 50) may not start to be offered the vaccine until May.

Community testing – Effective community testing is vital to our efforts to identify and manage local outbreaks. As lockdown restrictions gradually ease, testing is key to breaking chains of transmission and protecting one another.

It is recommended that people who need to be out and about get tested twice a week, with a three or four day gap between tests. Since the start of community testing for Moray residents without symptoms, just over 1500 rapid tests have been carried out at the mobile facilities.

The testing site in the Williamson Hall in Elgin is open 7-7pm this week. Options for ongoing community testing in Moray following the initial 12 week trial – including the possibility of a fixed site - are being explored by the council's Environmental Health team.

Meeting structures – For over a year the partnership has been actively responding to the Covid-19 pandemic and the resulting changes in restrictions, lockdowns and frequently changing guidance on a range of Covid related matters issued to health and social care from Scottish Government, Health Protection Scotland and other bodies.

The HSCP, local authority and NHS Grampian meeting structures and frequency have flexed and adapted in response to the changing situation and continue to be kept under review as recovery and renewal are progressed.

Social care discussion – The Moray Integration Joint Board (IJB) was joined by members of the Senior Leadership Group last week for a development session on the recently published [Independent Review of Adult Social Care](#).

The aim of the review, chaired by Derek Feeley, a former Scottish Government Director General for Health and Social Care and Chief Executive of NHS Scotland, was to recommend improvements to Adult Social Care in Scotland in terms of the outcomes achieved by and with people who use services, their carers and families, and the experience of people who work in social care.

The Review offered the following definition of the purpose of Adult Social Care to help bring people and organisations together:

“Everyone in Scotland will get the social care support they need to live their lives as they choose and to be active citizens. We will all work together to promote and ensure human rights, wellbeing, independent living and equity.”

To achieve this purpose the review proposes there needs to be:

- a new narrative for social care support;
- a redesign of the system of social care support including the creation of a National Care Service (NCS);
- redefining quality and closing the gap between intent and lived experience (the implementation gap);
- protecting, promoting and ensuring human rights and equality;
- greater empowerment of people who need support and unpaid carers at the level of the individual and the collective; and
- valuing of the social care support workforce.

The report makes 53 recommendations in 9 areas: a human rights-based approach; unpaid carers; the case for a NCS; how a NCS should work; a new approach to improving outcomes; models of care; commissioning for public good; fair work; finance.

A number of the recommendations would require change to legislation, some of which have the potential to impact on the IJB. It will not be until after the Scottish Parliament elections that routes to possible legislation, resourcing, implementation, timelines and consultation will be considered.

The IJB intends to analyse the recommendations contained in the review against the implementation of strategic and operational improvement plans in order to be well placed to respond to proposals as they come forward.

Staff health and wellbeing – Supporting the resilience, recovery and wellbeing of staff across the health and social care system remains a priority for NHS Grampian and the three Health & Social Care Partnerships.

Last week saw the launch of the joint We Care website at www.nhsgrampian.org/wecare, a permanent hub which provides all staff with equal access – regardless of their role or where they are working – to a whole host of practical help and advice on everything from mental health to money issues.



To mark the launch of We Care and as a small token of appreciation, staff will receive a treat bag over the coming weeks. These will be allocated through existing line management structures based on location of work. Volunteers are busy packing and delivering the bags which is a huge undertaking and we appreciate their extra helping hands.