



Dear Colleagues,

Online retailers are advising to order early for Christmas as the demand will be heavier than any previous year (understandably). Christmas goods have been in the physical shops for a few weeks - seems earlier than usual.

So here is the last newsletter of September and I'm talking about Christmas. In the same way that retail is preparing so is health and social care for what has the potential to be a very busy and challenging winter.

The flu vaccination programme will be our most ambitious. The level of unscheduled activity across the system is high, as we expected after lockdown. And there is the usual pressure of winter looming with the exacerbation of respiratory conditions, for example, as the weather gets colder.

Our winter surge plan and flu vaccination plans were presented to the Integration Joint Board (IJB) when it met last week. Thank you for all the work that has gone into planning and for the delivery to come as we gear up for a busy season.

Pressure and being busy can raise stress levels in us all. While expecting a good job to be done is entirely reasonable and needed, please be kind to each other as we head into this next phase.

And remember to shop early!

**Simon Bokor-Ingram,  
Interim Chief Officer**

**Eligibility criteria** –The eligibility criteria for adult social care was elevated to critical only in March to build capacity in the system for the expected demand as a result of covid. Individual packages were suspended following a social work review and discussion with individuals and their families.

The [eligibility criteria](#) is a means to ensure those who require social care support have their unmet assessed needs responded to in a fair and equal way. The criteria is based on the way in which a person's needs affect their independence and looks at both the severity of risk and urgency of intervention needed to respond to their needs. It is also a method for prioritising limited resources to those in greatest need, while also recognising the types of low level intervention that can be made to prevent, reduce or delay the need for ongoing support for people currently in less urgent need of support.

The IJB agreed at its meeting last week that critical and substantial needs will again be met.

**IJB Chair appointed** – The appointment of Dennis Robertson as new Chair of the Moray Integration Joint Board (IJB) has been ratified by members.

Mr Robertson is a Non-Executive Board Member of NHS Grampian and has been a member of the IJB for over a year. In taking up post, he said: “I look forward to continuing to work closely with my fellow IJB members as we navigate these challenging times.



“I also want to acknowledge the huge amount of hard work that has gone on during covid, not only by our own dedicated and committed health and social care staff but also by unpaid carers, volunteers, the Third and Independent sectors who have all gone above and beyond.”

Mr Robertson began his career in social work in Greenock and was Client Services Manager for North East Sensory Services (NESS), delivering social work and rehabilitation services for people living with sensory loss. He was the first blind person to be elected to the Scottish Parliament in 2011 and was a member of many Committees and Cross-Party Groups.

The position of Chair rotates between NHS Grampian and Moray Council. Mr Robertson will serve in the role until April 2021.

The current IJB membership is six voting members - three Councillors nominated by Moray Council and three Board Members of Grampian Health Board - supported by non-voting appointees from a range of sectors and stakeholder groups including the Third Sector, patients/service users, unpaid carers, Trade Unions and staff.

To provide greater resilience and wider scrutiny across its committees, the IJB is to request Moray Council and Grampian Health Board each appoint one additional voting member.

**Re-opening of day services** – All risk assessments require to be signed off by Health Protection before the local multi-disciplinary oversight group can make a decision on the re-opening of any internally or externally provided building based services.

There will be a significant reduction in capacity and pre-covid levels of service provision will not be available for service users. The majority of day services for older people were commissioned in care homes and this provision is not expected to reopen any time soon.

Prioritisation of places will be determined over the next few weeks. We continue to work with supported people, their families, existing and potential service providers to innovate alternative day opportunities and respite.

**Hospital bed numbers** – Bed spacing requirements to comply with the physical distancing measures in response to covid will result in a reduction in bed numbers at

Dr Gray's Hospital, with community hospitals required to do the same in order to protect the safety of patients and staff.

This will bring additional pressures to our local system and underlines the importance of scaling up our Home First approach to reducing avoidable hospital admissions or attendances and helping people get back home quickly and safely.

**Winter/Surge Action Plan** – Assurance has been provided to the IJB that Health & Social Care Moray, including the GMED out of hours' services, have robust and deliverable plans in place to ensure business continuity over winter and to deal with fluctuation in demand.

The plan builds on lessons learned from last winter and also focuses on key priorities for winter 2020/21 in line with our remobilisation plan, supporting actions for new ways of working, operational resilience, preventing and anticipating demand.