

Tuesday 23 January 2024

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**Capital spending update** In December, the Scottish Government announced their budget and outlined a very challenging picture for public sector spending. One area which is seeing the impact of this very quickly is capital spending - spending on large building projects. Scottish Government have confirmed that, based on budget allocation for 2024/25 and medium-term funding outlook, work on the National Treatment Centre - Grampian Project, including an MRI for Dr Gray's Hospital, will not progress further at this time and all project activity will stop. This will be the position until there is certainty on funding. Plans to refurbish the mental health ward at Dr Gray's which were planned to take place at the same time as the MRI construction, will now be reviewed alongside wider NHS Grampian infrastructure investment plans.

Clearly, this news is hugely disappointing, not only for those who have worked on this project, but for the wider organisation and for everyone living and working in Grampian. We want to emphasise our ongoing commitment to these projects, and we hope both will proceed at some point in the future. It is worth noting any capital funds we receive will be directed towards maintenance of the existing estate and essential equipment replacement programmes. If you have any questions, or wish to discuss further with a member of the Project Team, please email [gram.ntc@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.ntc@nhs.scot)

**The week in review** Well, what a couple of weeks of wild weather we've had - first the snow and then the winds. With such heavy snowfall we might have expected - and feared - an increase in the number of people coming to an Emergency Department following a slip, trip, or fall. Although our falls numbers were slightly higher last week (205 across Grampian) compared with previous years (about 160 on average), we didn't see the big spike we have come to associate with wintery weather (this may be due to the rapid thaw compared to previous prolonged icy periods). In fact, we saw 150 fewer patients at our EDs this week compared with the previous week. Despite this good news our hospital beds have still been under real pressure with ARI and Dr Gray's routinely over 100% occupied. While the weather hasn't brought extra pressure to bear, it is clear we are still dealing with a significant amount of activity.

**New Strategic Falls Lead** As of 1 February 2024, Nichola McPherson will commence as Strategic Falls Lead for NHS Grampian. Nichola is a Physiotherapy Team Lead in Aberdeenshire, she brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the fall's agenda and the role. Congratulations to Nichola!

**Critical Care Follow-up** The critical care team want to gather feedback from users of the nurse-led critical care follow-up service. People are typically discharged from critical care (wards 201 and 106b) to various other wards across the hospital site. If you are part of the clinical team on a ward which receives people from these wards, the team would be very grateful if you could take a few minutes to share your feedback, [via this survey](#). All responses are anonymous and will be used to evaluate and develop the service.

**Values Based Reflective Practice (VBRP®)** We have two items to share on VBRP today:

**Essential Toolkit training** VBRP® aims to support wellbeing and equip you with distinctive tools to reflect on your practice, to continue to deliver person-centred care and re-connect with your core values. At the end of the Essential Toolkit course, participants may:

- Reflect on their own practice using the tools
- Participate more fully in a group or meeting facilitated by a registered facilitator where the tools are used to reflect on past or future practice

Interested? Training will take place on Thursday 15 February, 10am-4pm, in Room 210, Suttie Centre, Foresterhill Health Campus.

If you have completed Essential Toolkit training, you can undertake Dynamics & Processes training to further your learning. This will take place on Wednesday 21 & Thursday 22 February, 10am-4pm, in Room 203, Suttie Centre. This is a two-day course; you must be available to attend both days.

For more information or to apply for a place on either course, please email [gram.vbrp@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.vbrp@nhs.scot) Open to all health & social care staff.

**VBRP® taster sessions** A series of 1-hour taster sessions are now available to book onto throughout February 2024. If you have an interest in VBRP® or simply a curiosity to find out more, you can sign up for a Teams session [by completing this short form](#). These taster sessions are open to anyone working in health & social care, right across Grampian, with the limited spaces allocated on a first come, first served basis.

**Make sure you use the correct printer** A plea from our friends in Clinical Genetics (Ashgrove House). They are continuing to receive print jobs, from across the organisation, to their printer. This is a data security risk, along with a waste of paper and ink. Please ensure you are attached to your local printer **only** and not Clinical Genetics (NHSG 9327 Clinical Genetics copier/printer, ground floor, Ashgrove House).

**Ticket offer – Burns Night event, Beach Ballroom** A limited number of free tickets are being made available to health & social care staff for a Burns Night event at the Beach Ballroom in Aberdeen. The event takes place this Friday, doors opening at 7pm. Alongside your meal and all the usual Burns Night traditions, you'll be entertained by ceilidh band Iron Broo. [You can book your tickets via this link](#) using the code NHSCOMP. Tickets are limited to two per person and once they're gone, they're gone. As usual NHS Grampian is not responsible for – and does not benefit from – these ticket offers.

**Tune of the day** Helen Rowbottom makes today's request, and she is representing for all the birdwatchers. The RSPB are holding their annual [Big Garden Birdwatch](#) this weekend. This important event gives an indication of how our feathered friends are faring and you don't have to obsessively watch them all weekend, just pick an hour that suits you. To mark the occasion, what else but Nelly Furtado and [I'm Like A Bird?](#)(EP)

If you want to request a tune, follow up on items included in this brief, or suggest an item for sharing, drop us an email via [gram.communications@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.communications@nhs.scot)