

Tuesday 28 June 2022

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**Plan for the Future – the case for change** We're planning for the future – but why do things need to change? When the NHS was founded in 1948, average life expectancy in the UK was 66-70 years. Now it's 81 years. We want to support everyone to live longer and healthier lives. Our Plan for the Future, launching soon, will play an important part in that.

**COVID-19 update** As highlighted in Friday's brief, the latest report from the Office for National Statistics suggests 1 in 20 people had the virus in the week ending 18 June. Hospital admissions in Grampian dropped very slightly – to 82 – in the week to 24 June, but bed occupancy remained static at 76.

The UK Health Security Agency's latest analysis suggests Omicron variant BA.5 is likely to become the dominant COVID-19 variant in the UK. The increasing prevalence of Omicron BA.5 AND BA.4 is likely to be a factor in the recent increase in cases seen in the UK and elsewhere, though there is currently no evidence that Omicron BA.4 and BA.5 cause more severe illness than previous variants.

Their data also suggests 17.5 per cent of people aged 75 years and over have not had a vaccine within the past six months, putting them more at risk of severe disease. In Grampian, 92% of our over 75 population has had their Spring booster. Clinics will remain open throughout the summer (both appointments and drop-ins) allowing those aged 75+ or who are immunosuppressed/severely immunosuppressed who haven't had a booster to get one.

**Allocation of laptops/other devices** Many of you reading this will be aware of the ongoing demand for laptop computers and the issues globally with meeting this demand. To ensure all devices owned by NHS Grampian are allocated appropriately, the eHealth team have been auditing device log-ins. This has highlighted more than 1200 devices which have not been logged into for 60 days or more.

If you/your team have one of these devices, you will shortly receive an email with the specific details of the device and a request to return it to eHealth as quickly as possible. Unless the device is shared, or there is a valid technical reason, we should each only have one NHSG computer device. The email request will contain a point of contact, should further discussion be required.

**Multi-storey car park closure – Foresterhill** The Lady Helen Parking Centre (multi-storey car park) at Foresterhill will be closed this weekend (2&3 July) for essential maintenance. Alternative parking will be available within the core site and in the tarmac and shale car parks for ALL users during the works. Vehicles must be removed from the car park by 6pm on Friday 1 July. Thank you for your cooperation and apologies for any inconvenience caused.

**Reminder - single use cutlery - retail catering** A ban on single-use plastic consumer products came into effect in Scotland on 1 June. In line with the ban, all NHS Grampian retail catering outlets are withdrawing plastic cutlery. From this Friday (1 July), plastic cutlery will no longer be provided. You are encouraged to bring your own cutlery; reusable items will be available for purchase, priced at 10p per item.

**Pride pin badges** Since 2018, NHS Grampian has been offering badges and lanyards for staff to display their solidarity with LGBTQ+ colleagues and patients. We were delighted when NHS Scotland launched a national badge during Pride month last year and this is now the badge we distribute. NHS Scotland are keen to evaluate the success of the badge, 12 months on, and are running a short survey. [You can share your views here](#), anonymously, until 22 July.

**Top up Degree - BSc Healthcare Practice Shortlisting** The next cohort of the BSc Healthcare Practice (formerly BSc Professional Nursing Practice) is due to commence on 19 September 2022 at Robert Gordon University. We therefore invite anyone who wishes to apply for the course to contact [gram.topupdegree@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.topupdegree@nhs.scot) to register their interest. This is a competitive application process so, to aid us in shortlisting applicants, we will ask for a supporting statement of around 500 words covering a few key points which are outlined on the following intranet page - [Pages - Top-UpDegree \(scot.nhs.uk\)](#) (this page is only accessible via an NHS Grampian networked device. If you cannot access this, please let us know and we can share the flyer with you via email).

**Name the Bike Hubs** Last year, we installed three bike hubs through the Spaces for People Project, managed by Evonne Llewellyn. These bike hubs provide secure bike parking for up to 20 staff bikes with electricity and double security access at Ashgrove House (opposite ARI), East End of Foresterhill (next to Foresterhill Lea) and Royal Cornhill Hospital. [Click here to see the exact locations and find out how to access the bike hubs](#). Until now, the bike hubs have been referred to by their locations, only but we think these snazzy cycle parking facilities deserve some names. Send over your name ideas to [gram.activetravel@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.activetravel@nhs.scot) by 11 July. Our favourite names will then be put to a public vote and the winning staff member will get a £20 Scotland Loves Local Gift Card.

**Tune of the day** Kelly Cartmel makes today's request, dedicated to colleagues Eleanor McNiven and Christina Kennedy who retire this week with more than 80 years of service to the NHS between them. Christina and Eleanor are described as stalwarts of the North Aberdeenshire older adult Community Mental Health team, and we wish both of them all the very best! Christina is a huge Cliff Richard fan, so Kelly has asked for [The Young Ones](#), of course featuring The Shadows (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)