MORAY HEALTH & CARE NEWS

NHS Grampian

HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE MORAY

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Our recruitment campaign





As you may have read in the press, an exciting new recruitment campaign launches this month which showcases the region, career opportunities and the lifestyle on offer to doctors and nurses considering whether to move here.

At the heart of the campaign is a short film developed with Elgin-based company Northport Studios, which was filmed at Dr Gray's Hospital and at various locations around Moray.

The completed film features the colleague and patient interactions which underpin the exceptional care provided at Dr Gray's as well as what a fantastic area we live in.

It is being heavily promoted on digital media and advertised on platforms including Sky TV. It focusses on the incredible work of our maternity professionals, with the aim of growing this crucial service as we work to attract the consultants, anaesthetists, midwives and nurses that will enable more women and families to once again choose Dr Gray's for their birth.

In addition, attention-grabbing new print adverts will shortly go live with professional bodies including The Royal College of Midwives, The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists as well as in leisure magazines and on lifestyle websites that take us to new audiences.

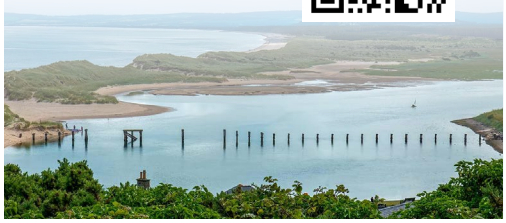
The competition to recruit staff and particular specialist skills across the NHS has been well reported and Dr Gray's faces the same challenge in a highly competitive market. So, we ask that you share the film as far and wide as possible to help amplify its reach and show the warm community welcome that awaits clinicians considering a move here.

To watch the new recruitment film, visit and subscribe to NHS Grampian's YouTube channel.

Moray HSCP FOCUS primary care update

As a response to the issues faced by our GP practices, both locally and nationally, an improvement focus has commenced called Primary Care Vision. We are committed to working collaboratively and innovatively across Grampian to develop an approach to General Practice which will work for all our communities and our unique geography. Together we're producing a local plan that outlines our goals and how we'll achieve them. This plan will help us overcome the challenges and pressures we're all facing. We believe that by taking these steps, we can also make our health and social care system in Grampian more robust and sustainable for community long-term benefit.

We will continue to keep you updated on progress: you can see our primary care focused newsletter via the QR code.



This publication is also available in other formats and languages on request. Please call Equality and Diversity on 01224 551116 or 01224 552245 or email: gram.communications@nhs.scot

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NHS Grampian welcomes consultant midwives to enhance maternity services



Pictured: Nicola Mackay & Amanda Gotch

NHS Grampian has taken a significant step to enhance maternity care by appointing two consultant midwives. This appointment introduces the first-ever dedicated consultant midwife for Moray. NHS Grampian and NHS Highland join only one other Scottish health board in benefitting from this kind of specialised clinical leadership.

Geraldine Fraser, NHS Grampian's Integrated Families Portfolio Lead, emphasised the ongoing recruitment efforts aligned with the Moray Maternity Service Plan. She said: "We are working jointly with NHS Highland to build a sustainable team for the future. Consultant midwives are entrusted with coaching, motivating and empowering fellow professionals. Their responsibilities include implementing research, training and enhancing development opportunities for their teams.

As well as spending part of their time in clinical practice, they also have a unique role in shaping strategic vision, and evaluating, developing and improving service provision."

Nicola Mackay, the former lead for practice education in maternity services, collaborates with NHS Highland to deliver exceptional care in her new role as consultant midwife for Moray. Her primary focus lies in supporting services to provide high quality care, which is evidence based, safe and positively impacting on improved health outcomes for women and families. Her enthusiasm for engagement with local communities and colleagues underscores her commitment to this role.

Amanda Gotch, a midwife with extensive leadership experience, complements Nicola's efforts by overseeing maternity services across the broader Grampian region, as the other new consultant midwife. Amanda's recent involvement in driving meaningful patient-professional dialogue through the realistic medicine program in Grampian and Orkney showcases her dedication. Her journey, fostered by the Scottish Quality and Safety Fellowship, aligns seamlessly with her role as a consultant midwife, aiming to elevate the profession and invigorate local maternity services.

In a pivotal time for maternity services in Grampian, both consultant midwives stand poised to make substantial contributions. Their dedication to empowering midwives as clinical experts highlights the exciting trajectory maternity care is embarking upon.

Regions first prescribing midwives making a difference at Dr Gray's Hospital.

Two NHS Grampian midwives who were among the region's first to take part in a prescribing course at Robert Gordon University are now putting their skills to use as part of the team at Dr Gray's Hospital in Elgin.

Senior charge midwife Rebecca Allan says her keenness to have a positive impact on new mums is why she chose to take up the offer of additional training to be able to prescribe medication. She says: "Being a prescribing midwife means we can often bridge some of the gap between the role normally undertaken by the midwives on the floor and the medical staff. It allows us to assess pregnant and postnatal women with minor ailments and enables us to offer a high quality, safe level of care, close to home."

Rebecca's colleague Dawn Bannister adds: "I couldn't imagine doing anything else. I love being able to support families, enabling them to have the birth experience that they desire. Working in a small rural area we see many families time and again and it helps build trust.

"This additional training helps us to prevent lengthy delays in treatment and promotes continuity of care. I am able to provide consultations, assessments, undertake investigations and prescribe for women in my care within the scope of my role."

Frailty work

Frailty is a term used by doctors to describe a state of increased vulnerability that comes with getting older. It can affect both our bodies and our thinking abilities, making it harder to do everyday tasks. While some degree of frailty is natural as we age, there are certain things we can do to prevent, manage, or even reverse some aspects of it.

In Moray, our population is growing, especially among people aged 75 and older, which increased by 57.6% between 2001 and 2021. We're living longer lives, and our goal is to make sure those years are as healthy as possible.

Here in Moray, we're taking part in a program called 'Focus on Frailty' in partnership with NHS Grampian, Moray's health and social care team, and GP practices. This aims to make healthcare better for people who are 65 and older and dealing with frailty or at risk of becoming frail. We're focusing on early intervention and prevention, using a range of services like dietary advice, therapies to help with daily activities, support for getting back on your feet after an illness, reviews of medications, lifestyle changes, and mental health support, among other things. Our goal is to give the right care at the right time and in the right way to get the best possible results for everyone involved.

Boosting medical talent across the North

NHS Grampian, NHS Highland and the University of Aberdeen welcomed almost 300 new undergraduate medicine students last month – a new record for the region. They will spend their two final academic years of study in clinical practice in hospital and general practice settings, including those across Moray.

Dr Gray's has a strong heritage for training and remains committed to prioritising training opportunities. The university medical school continues to develop outreach work supporting medical student applications from a wide range of backgrounds. The Gateway2Medicine is a one-year program which is designed to encourage students, who may not have the same learning opportunities, to meet advertised entry requirements for medicine.

Recent graduate Rafsan Chowdhury enjoyed clinical placement at hospitals in Stornoway, Elgin, Inverness, Aberdeen and Fraserburgh. He said: "I gained a lot of exposure to different patient issues in that time, including how to deal with transfers from rural areas and how you prioritise. I felt fully integrated into the team and gained valuable, multi-dimensional experience."

Find out more about training options available with the University of Aberdeen's Institute of Education in Healthcare and Medical Sciences: **http://www.abdn.ac.uk/iehms/**

Dr Gray's chapel makeover

After 15 years of faithful service, the chapel at Dr Gray's Hospital was in need of a refresh. The chaplains had a vision for a modern yet timeless space that could serve as a sanctuary for staff, patients, and visitors alike.



Pictured: Ian Pallett & Liz Tait

The first step was refreshing the flooring. New light-coloured floor reflects the natural light that pours in through the chapel's entrance, creating a serene and calming atmosphere. New chairs have also been added to the space, designed for both comfort and ease of maintenance.

Ian Pallett, healthcare chaplain at Dr Gray's, said: "The chapel at Dr Gray's Hospital is an important part of the life of the hospital community – used by staff, patients and visitors. The refurbishment will ensure that this space remains a place of reflection, prayer and peace for many years to come."

Hospital chaplains did not stop there. They wanted to make sure that everyone who entered the chapel could use the space as they needed to. So, a dispenser for disposable prayer mats has been installed.

Not just a surface-level improvement, the refurbishment of the chapel is a testament to the chaplains' commitment to maintaining a space for contemplation, prayer, and tranquillity for years to come.

These works have been designed with durability and ease of maintenance in mind, ensuring its continued importance within the hospital community.



New transfer arrangement supports reduced journeys for Moray women

As part of the new arrangement between NHS Grampian and NHS Highland, work has been done to ensure women who are eligible to birth in the midwife-led unit at Dr Gray's Hospital – who develop a complication during their labour which requires timely obstetric care – will now be transferred directly to Raigmore Hospital as the closest obstetric unit.

A midwife from Dr Gray's will accompany women during these transfers to support their continuing labour care and transition to clinicians based at Raigmore.

This significant step builds on the close working arrangements already in place between the two health boards for other services and provides certainty for mothers and families over their transfer destination should it become necessary. This arrangement will remain in place until consultant-led birth services are available in Elgin in three years' time.

Announcing the important development, Simon Bokor-Ingram, NHS Grampian's Moray portfolio lead said: "This arrangement with NHS Highland is a milestone moment in the evolution of local maternity services.

We still have much to do and skilled staff to recruit but communities across Moray should be in no doubt about our commitment to deliver a sustainable consultant-led birth service for them."

The arrangement follows the recommendations of the 2021 (Roberts) review of maternity services at the hospital and subsequent recommendations from the independent external assurance panel led by Dr Linda de Caestecker.

Simon added: "With NHS Grampian and NHS Highland working in partnership we have laid the foundation for a resilient, sustainable maternity service with safety at its heart."

A new midwife consultant joined the recently appointed unit operational manager in Elgin last month and joint teams from both health boards continue to work closely with the independent panel as work on the Maternity Service Plan continues.

Isla Barton, Director of Midwifery for NHS Highland, added: "The new Associate Director of Midwifery in NHSH together with the Consultant Midwife role has already been hugely beneficial and supported colleagues across both Highland and Grampian in taking this work forward. We're delighted that there are now clear pathways in place for all women that includes Inverness, as well as Aberdeen."

Anyone with questions or feedback relating to the Moray Maternity Service Plan should email **gram.maternityengagement@nhs.scot.** For advice on any aspect of maternity care, please get in touch with your midwife.

NHS Grampian and NHS Highland welcome Jane to lead Maternity Collaborative



The joint NHS Grampian and NHS Highland Maternity Collaborative is to be led by Jane Gill, who was recently appointed as Programme Director. Jane will oversee the ongoing recruitment of almost 100 additional staff as well as progressing joint arrangements between the two health boards which will make delivering the Moray Maternity Service Plan possible.
To find out more about Jane's story, visit the NHS Grampian website **here.**

Maternity collaborative newsletter

This NHS Grampian & NHS Highland Maternity Collaborative Newsletter has been developed with the intention of regularly communicating with our stakeholders and supporters. It will be released every 6 weeks and include the programme's highlights and introduce several of the diverse and extensive teams that are contributing to the programme's success. Please let us know what topics you would like to see covered in future newsletters by contacting **gram.maternityengagement@nhs.scot**
You can visit the Moray maternity webpage and view the newsletter **here.**



Safe haven created for team at Dr Gray's Hospital

A quiet area for staff at Moray's biggest hospital to relax and unwind has opened, thanks to support from Project Wingman Foundation Ltd.

Project Wingman started during the pandemic and saw airline cabin crew provide 'First Class Service' to healthcare teams across the UK. Although many of these crews have returned to their regular jobs, the organisation continues to provide vital wellbeing support.

The legacy lounge is a permanent area located next to the innovation hub and is the result of a partnership between NHS Grampian and Project Wingman Foundation.

There is comfortable furniture, soft lighting, refreshment making facilities and calming décor to create a peaceful atmosphere. It is designed to provide a safe and quiet space for everyone working at the hospital to take a break from the intense demands of their jobs and recharge their batteries.

Liz Tait, Clinical and Care Governance Lead - Moray CHP said: "We are immensely proud of the hard work our frontline healthcare staff have done during the pandemic, and we are delighted to be able to provide this room for them to use. This is a small but significant gesture of our appreciation for all their efforts."

"We are proud to work with NHS Grampian to provide this much-needed space for staff at Dr Gray's Hospital," added Project Wingman Foundation founder, Emma Henderson. "We know that healthcare workers are under immense pressure and it's important to us to provide support in any way we can."

This is just one of many initiatives that Project Wingman Foundation has launched to support frontline workers. The organisation has also provided virtual support to healthcare staff, including online coffee mornings and wellness sessions.

Project Wingman Foundation Ltd continues to work with healthcare organisations across the country to provide support to frontline workers. The opening of the quiet area at Dr Gray's Hospital shows the organization's commitment to supporting those who have been working tirelessly during the pandemic.

Emma added: "We are delighted to have been able to secure this legacy lounge for staff at Dr Gray's Hospital. Our mission is to provide a safe and comfortable space for them to take a break and recharge, and this room will go a long way in helping to achieve that."



Pictured, From Left to right: Emma Henderson MBE, Former Airline Captain | Founder & CEO of Project Wingman Foundation Ltd. & Liz Tait, Clinical and Care Governance Lead - Moray CHP

NHS Grampian Board visits GP practices In Moray.

The NHS Grampian Board convened in Elgin on Wednesday, the 3rd of August. Following the formal board meeting, members of the board visited two Moray GP Practices to learn about ongoing projects.

Chairperson Alison Evison, Finance Director Alex Stephen, non-executive Dr. John Tomlinson, and People and Culture Director Tom Power visited Maryhill Practice in Elgin. They met with GP Partner Robert Lockhart and other members of the multidisciplinary team. They got updates on a project by Health Improvement Scotland that Moray Health and Social Care Partnership is part of. This project aims to improve care for frail elderly patients. They also learned about a Moray Growth Deal project that aims to better coordinate care for people with gestational diabetes, reducing the risk of diabetes later in life.

In Forres, Sarah Duncan, the NHS Grampian Board secretary, along with non-executive board members Albert Donald, Hussein Patwa, and Ian Yuill, visited Forres Health and Care Centre. The board toured the building, met patients receiving treatment at the Forres Treatment and Care Hub, and learned about innovative approaches by local primary care teams to improve health and provide community care and support. Graham Hilditch and Marianne Nicolson, representing the Leanchoil Trust, talked about plans to turn Leanchoil Hospital into a community health hub for Forres and Moray. More information can be found at **www.leanchoiltrust.org.**
The board also heard about exciting projects in Forres as part of the Moray Growth Deal, focusing on using technology, personal data store apps, and smarter housing to support people with frailty or additional needs in the community. These projects are important for piloting new technology in Scotland and are a significant development for Moray.
Discussions also took place about the future vision for general practice in Grampian. This work has started recently, with a focus on creating flexible options in general practice to improve patient care. Several workshops are planned, including input from patients. The board is enthusiastic about these initiatives and actively supports them.

Friends of Dr Gray's mocktail event: Sipping the summer in the sensory garden

As the sun cast its warm July glow upon Dr Gray's Hospital, a refreshing and vibrant event unfolded in the heart of the hospitals sensory garden. The Friends of Dr Gray's Charity Mocktail Event saw a lively gathering of both hospital staff and members of the public, coming together to celebrate the joys of summer and discover a delectable array of non-alcoholic concoctions.

Organised by the collaborative efforts of the Friends of Dr Gray's charity, the Health Improvement Team, and Health and Social Care Moray, the event aimed to promote the importance of staying hydrated during the hot summer months while fostering a sense of community and engagement.

Guests were treated to an assortment of mocktails, creatively crafted to tantalize taste buds without a hint of alcohol. From zesty citrus blends to refreshing herbal infusions, the mocktails showcased an array of flavours that perfectly complemented the surroundings of the sensory garden. Attendees were also given the opportunity to collect recipes for these delightful beverages, ensuring that the benefits of this event would extend well beyond its cheerful atmosphere.



Liz Tait, from the Friends of Dr Gray's, expressed their delight about the event's success: "We're thrilled to see such a positive response from both the hospital staff and the community.

It's heartening to witness individuals coming together in a shared space, enjoying each other's company while also learning about simple ways to take care of their health."

"Community engagement and health education go hand in hand. We're proud to support initiatives that not only spread awareness about health but also create opportunities for meaningful interactions," said Susan Thom, Area public health co-ordinator for Health and Social Care Moray.

For more event updates and future initiatives, stay tuned to the Friends of Dr Gray's via their webpage.

https://www.friendsofdrgrays.org

Exciting progress unfolds: A new chapter in our hospital's transformation

In a remarkable display of progress and dedication, our local hospital's ambitious facade renovation project has entered an exciting new phase.

We're now in Phase 3 of the project, which is a significant step forward for these essential building works. There's been a lot of activity on the site, with the focus turned toward the historic north and south gable ends of the hospital's original building.

The goal of this project isn't just about making the hospital look better; it's also about ensuring the safety and durability of this healthcare landmark for generations to come.

Alasdair Pattinson, the Hospital General Manager, said, "Safety remains our paramount concern. We're implementing strict safety measures and following the guidelines from the Infection Prevention Control Team to safeguard both patients and staff during the restoration period."

The transformations don't stop there! In an exciting addition to the ongoing exterior facelift, the project has also included the replacement of roof light windows in the original building's stairwell. This work has been completed within a dynamic six-week timeframe.

With phase 1 and 2 completed, completion of phase 3 will see an approximate sum of £758,000 invested in this refurbishment project.

As we look ahead to refreshed and rejuvenated exterior, we embrace the progress and change that will usher in a new era of our beloved hospital. Together, we are building not just a new exterior, but a future filled with hope and health for all.





Moray's Volunteers

We have an amazing group of volunteers in Moray! Our NHS Volunteer Service Coordinator, Alison Lowes, has brought in several new volunteers in recent months at Dr Gray's Hospital (DGH) and our NHS services in the community. These volunteers come from various backgrounds and have their own reasons for helping out. Some are retired clinical staff and professionals; others are considering a career change or want to do something meaningful in their free time and some are looking to work in the NHS or Social Care.

Our latest volunteers at DGH are making a big difference in the radiology department. The Radiology team told us, "Our new Volunteers are an invaluable asset to the radiology department. They welcome patients waiting for an x-ray with friendly conversation and a smile, which helps put patients at ease. They guide patients to the changing area and x-ray room and ensure they get back to where they need to go afterward. They also act as messengers between radiology and the wards to help patients get their scans as quickly as possible. These tasks really help our busy department run more smoothly, and the volunteers have become an integral part of the radiology team, boosting team morale."

In the coming months, we're especially interested in volunteers who can visit and spend time with elderly patients in our community hospitals who may not have any family or friends visiting them. This social care aspect of our team is focused on helping people stay independent for as long as possible.

Leading the social care side of our team is Social Enterprise Development Officer, Tracey Peden, who explained: "Our aim is to prevent, reduce, and significantly delay the need for long-term care services, enabling everyone to maintain their independence in the community and at home to lead healthier, active lives for as long as possible."

Gillian Pirie is our new Volunteer Development Officer. Gillian has experience in the non-profit sector and previously served as the Volunteer Development Officer for Moray Food Plus. She expressed her excitement about joining our team and is eager to contribute to future service improvements, saying: 'I'm delighted to be joining such a dedicated team, and I'm looking forward to being a part of future developments for the service.'

When the Access Care Team receives referrals or inquiries, they consider whether a volunteer could support the person's health and well-being goals. Volunteers help in various ways, such as being community responders, social volunteers, or participating in Moray Calls.

Community responders answer calls when a vulnerable person's personal alarm goes off, ensuring a quick response, especially for those without nearby family or friends. Social volunteers spend time with people who share their hobbies or interests, providing companionship and assistance with everyday activities. Moray Calls offers social interaction phone calls to combat loneliness.

Gillian added, "Volunteers are not expected to be available all the time and are not solely responsible for every call-out as there is always more than one responder per person. They're never asked to provide personal care – it is simply about providing reassurance in the event of a trip or fall." Social volunteer is a flexible role where volunteers are matched with someone living in their community who shares similar hobbies or interests.

We're also working on expanding our services to stay connected with people waiting to be matched with a volunteer. On the community side, Ann Hay helps develop groups for older people who focus on prevention and early intervention.

If you want to make a positive impact in your community by volunteering with us, please contact us at **volunteering.cc@moray.gov.uk** or 01343 563515.

For NHS Volunteer opportunities in Moray, email **gram.involvemoray@nhs.scot**

A garden makeover for Dr Gray's Hospital in Moray

Dr Gray's Hospital and Greenfingers Horticultural Project are teaming up to transform the buildings iconic rose garden.

Transforming the gardens at the front of the original building into a peaceful and therapeutic place for patients, hospital staff, and community members is ongoing.

The goal is to create a peaceful and relaxing place in the hospital grounds that helps people relax and feel better.

Thanks to a £2,000 donation from the NHS Grampian Charity, the official charity of NHS Grampian, work on the garden makeover has started and will continue throughout 2023, with seasonal additions made as the garden develops.

Lisa Duthie, NHS Grampian Charity Lead, says: "We are delighted to be supporting the transformation of the garden at Dr Gray's Hospital.

"The garden provides a huge therapeutic benefit, not only for patients, but also for family members, staff, and members of the public visiting the hospital. We really appreciate the support of Greenfingers in developing this space.

"Supporting the creation and development of green spaces at our hospitals is a key priority for the charity, and we look forward to welcoming visitors and staff to enjoy the garden once work is complete."

Angie McColl, NHS Grampian project manager, said, "Working with our charity partners to refresh the hospital gardens and provide a place for people away from the hustle and bustle of hospital life will be fantastic.

"This garden makeover will be a significant benefit to the hospital and its patients. Not only will it provide a pleasant outdoor space, but it will also be a great source of pride for both the hospital and its staff.

"The charity's £2,000 donation made this project possible, and we hope it will be a great success. It's a wonderful addition to our ongoing efforts."

The makeover is part of the hospital's ongoing work to make the patient experience better. The hospital has already invested in new equipment for the wards and is working to create a more welcoming and pleasant environment for all its patients and visitors.

Greenfingers is a project run by Health & Social Care Moray that uses



From left to right: Pam Lewis, Menita Roberts, Angie McColl, Robert Macgillivray, Sheree Harper, Thomas Costen, Anne Chadwick

gardening as a therapeutic and social activity. It's located in Elgin's Cooper Park and provides learning and therapeutic experiences. Their team often works on various projects in the local community.

Menita Roberts, the training projects coordinator for Health & Social Care Moray, said, "Greenfingers is excited to be part of this project. We've had a positive working relationship with Dr Gray's for many years now. This project will let us showcase the skills of our participants and offer more learning experiences as we work to redesign and improve the garden experience for everyone in the future. I want to thank Angie for her continued support and the NHS Grampian Charity for their generous donation, which will mainly be used to buy perennial plants for this area."

NHS Grampian Charity's Roadshow

On Wednesday, October 4th, the NHS Grampian Charity team set up an information booth at Dr Gray's Hospital's Innovation Hub. They were there from 10 am to 3 pm, welcoming staff and sharing insights about how the charity can fund projects to enhance healthcare.

The event was a chance for people to talk directly to the charity's representatives, ask questions, get clear answers, and explore how to get involved.

Hospital staff also had the opportunity to learn more about the charity's positive impact, such as supporting new healthcare ideas and making patient care better. The event showed how much of a difference the NHS Grampian Charity makes in the lives of patients and their families in the area.

During the event the charity team shared stories of projects that have already received funding in Moray, including the provision of new furniture and TVs for Ward 7, support to improve and maintain the hospital's rose garden, and advanced medical equipment for the hospital like a vein finder for Ward 5. Hearing firsthand how the charity helps left a strong impression on attendees and reminded everyone why it's important to support this amazing organisation.

The NHS Grampian Charity team were very happy with how many staff showed up and how excited they were to hear about the opportunities available.

Lisa Duthie, NHS Grampian Charity Lead, said: "We were thrilled to have the opportunity to visit Dr Gray's and to meet some of the dedicated staff delivering healthcare in Moray.

"It was interesting to hear all the ideas they have about how to make improvements to the hospital experience for patients, and we look forward to supporting them in applying for funds to make these ideas a reality."

If you would like to find out more about the NHS Grampian Charity, click **here**.

Work continues on plans for MRI and upgraded mental health facilities

Plans for the news MRI facilities and full refurbishment of the mental heath ward and Dr Gray's Hospital are continuing. Find out the latest in the project update and Frequently Asked Questions document on NHS Grampian's Website:

Visit the digital Moray Health & Care News at **nhsgrampian.org/drgraysnews**

for bonus content and our latest news!

SCAN ME



If you would like the opportunity to **be more involved** with NHS Grampian projects, please contact us at **gram.involve@nhs.scot**

Hospital staff radiate talent & generosity at local event

In a dazzling display of creativity and community spirit, Dr Gray's Hospital illuminated Elgin town hall with its star-studded event, "Dr Gray's Got Talent," held on 5th May 2023. The evening proved to be a true celebration of the hospital's diverse talents, as staff members took the stage to showcase their unique skills, all in the name of a noble cause.

Laughter echoed through the hallways as staff members stepped out of their uniforms to deliver mesmerising performances that ranged from musical renditions to comedy sketches and captivating dance routines. The event was not only a showcase of the incredible talents hidden within our hospital's walls but also a testament to the strong bonds that tie our healthcare family together.

The evening was not only a platform for showcasing talents but also an opportunity for staff members to come together outside of their professional roles. Colleagues cheered each other on, families bonded, and new friendships were forged, all against the backdrop of an event designed to uplift spirits and bring joy.

Beyond the spotlight, the event had a deeper purpose – raising funds for the Friends of Dr Gray's, the hospital's dedicated charity. Thanks to the generosity of attendees, supporters, and the outstanding efforts of our staff, a remarkable £1,008 was raised, a testament to the power of unity and giving back.

Dr Ken Brown, Vice Chairperson of the Friends of Dr Gray's charity, expressed his gratitude, saying, "The resounding success of 'Dr Gray's Got Talent' is a heartwarming reflection of our hospital community's spirit. These funds will enable us to continue supporting initiatives that enhance patient and staff care and wellbeing and improve the hospital environment. We are immensely grateful for the enthusiasm and generosity of everyone involved."

Marie Burnett who organised the event said: "The incredible display of talent and generosity at 'Dr Gray's Got Talent' is a shining example of the heart that beats within our hospital community. Together, we create not only healing but also moments of joy and togetherness that uplift us all."

If you're interested in learning more and getting involved with the Friends of Dr Gray's, feel free to visit their website **www.friendsofdrgrays.org.**

Pictured: Marie Burnett organiser handing cheque over to Dr Ken Brown, Vice Chair of Friends of Dr Gray's.

