

Monday 19 December 2022

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**Our Winter plan** When the Grampian NHS board met on 1 December, they supported two papers, setting out our plan to meet healthcare demand over the winter, and our plan to communicate with people in Moray, Aberdeenshire, and Aberdeen City, to help them stay healthy and safe. [You can read both these papers here](#) – items 7 and 8 on the agenda – and we have already started putting the communications plan in action. Adverts are running on Northsound and Moray Firth Radio, and across social media platforms, focusing on Know Who To Turn To. There will be more to come over the next few weeks, including videos from our colleagues in pharmacy and optometry.

**Hospital Supplied Scrubs/Theatre Greens no longer to be used by non-theatre staff** Given there is no ongoing IPC (Infection, Prevention and Control) requirement for the use of scrubs outside of theatres - other than in areas where this was agreed before the COVID pandemic - scrubs are no longer to be used by non-theatre staff, effective immediately. This decision will relieve unnecessary pressure on linen services, at a time when automated ironing and folding of all scrubs is not currently possible due to equipment failure and the volume of scrubs being processed. [Click here to read more information](#) on the decision-making behind this update (intranet link, networked devices only)

**Staff Equalities Network - Wed 21 December** For the final Staff Equalities Network of 2022, we are more than excited to welcome NHS Grampian's new Chair Alison Evison. Alison is looking forward to coming along to meet the Network, introduce herself and to let us know a little more about why equality and inclusion will be a priority in her leadership agenda for NHS Grampian.

[You can find out more about Alison and the forthcoming Staff Equalities Network here.](#) The network will meet between 2-3pm, if you would like to come along and join the session or send any questions for Alison in advance, please email [gram.staffequalities@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.staffequalities@nhs.scot) We are looking forward to welcoming colleagues for what is sure to be a fantastic way to round up a progressive year for the Network and help to set the scene for all we can achieve together in 2023. Everyone is welcome!

**Festive thanks and appreciation** A Christmas card, from our Chair Alison Evison, and Prof Caroline Hiscox, our Chief Executive, was sent earlier today via the Global email; please share this with colleagues who may not have seen it. In addition, we wanted to share two messages of thanks from the Nursing & Midwifery Council and the Health & Care Professions Council:

The NMC message can be viewed here: [Joint letter from the NMC, Chief Nursing Officers and the CQC - The Nursing and Midwifery Council](#)

The HCPC message can be viewed here: [2022-joint-winter-letter---scotland.pdf \(hcpc-uk.org\)](#)

**TrakCare screen not loading? Have you set your preferences correctly?** We have recently noticed an increase in helpdesk calls relating to issues with screens not loading in Trakcare. Not having preferences set can cause screen loading problems. If you are experiencing this, please check that your preferences have been set correctly; [further guidance is available here](#) (intranet link, networked devices only). Remember you can always log a call with the IT Service Desk via x54444 for TrakCare help.

**Updates to Workforce Systems – thank you for your patience** The HR Service Centre has recently undertaken two significant pieces of work – transferring 7,200 bank workers records to weekly pay frequency and the regrading of 700 Band 2 HCSWs to Band 3. Amendments to employee's records should have been made in eESS, for interface to ePayroll to start payment. However due to volumes, a very tight processing window of opportunity, and the need for eESS to be updated nationally to recognise a HCSW Band 3 in its post hierarchy, a decision was taken to bypass eESS and make the changes direct in the payroll system. This redirecting of system assured that the necessary pay changes were made on time. eESS Managers who are responsible for bank workers and/or Band 2 HCSW's who have been recently regarded to Band 3 are rightly querying why eESS records are not updated. **The changes will be done in eESS, with a predicted completed date by early January.** Please be assured staff and bank workers are being paid correctly. Your patience and understanding whilst the eESS process this significant volume of work, in addition to their normal workload, would be appreciated.

**Uniform Collection** If you are waiting for new uniform, please check your NHS email to see if yours is ready; the sewing room have issued more than 450 collection requests over the last week. Please check your email promptly, or encourage your teams to check their inboxes, if you manage staff awaiting uniform.

The Sewing Room will be closed on the Public Holidays, so please make every effort to collect uniform this week. You do not have to come and collect your uniform personally - a colleague can collect on your behalf. The sewing room is open for collections Monday to Thursday 8am-2.45pm and 8am-12pm on Fridays.

If you have received an email and you no longer need your uniform, please email the sewing room so it can be put back into the stock for distribution. If you think you should have new uniform and have not received an email, please get in touch by phoning 01224 553726 or emailing [gram.sewingservices@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.sewingservices@nhs.scot). If you are waiting for a NHS navy fleece, please do not get in touch about this as we are currently working our way through a backlog of requests, and you will receive your fleece as soon as we can.

**Secret Santa Gleneagles Draw** We had an amazing response to this raffle, with over 5,000 entries when the draw closed at 11.59pm last night. The draw has been made and the lucky winners will be notified directly by email on Friday 23 December – keep an eye on those inboxes!

**Pause for thought** Here is your regular Monday opportunity for reflection, taken from last week's Guided Journaling sessions:

*Is there a difference between waiting and being patient? Who or what are you waiting for and where are you being patient - and what's the difference between the two?*

**Festive Frolics** Just for this week, we're adding a Christmas question to our tune of the day, and we are starting with a big one: Is Die Hard a Christmas movie? [Have your say here](#)

Our tune today is a big favourite of mine – [White Wine in the Sun by Tim Minchin](#). Big thanks to Emily Christie (Speech & Language Therapist at the Health Village) for introducing me to this one when we put together our Christmas playlist in 2020; this is still available on Spotify, just search for NHS Grampian Christmas playlist (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)