

Tuesday 19 March 2024

Agenda for Change (AfC) 2023 agreement - non pay elements The group overseeing the implementation of the non-pay elements of the 2023 AfC agreement met today. While we still await the formal, detailed guidance from Scottish Government, there are some key updates to share, regarding a reduction in the working week of 30 minutes, to 37 hours for full time staff (pro-rata for part time staff):

- Regular Rostering/SSTS/eESS users will see changes in these systems from 1 April 2024. This is to ensure we keep proper records of time worked. There will be more information provided directly to those users.
- While teams are encouraged to discuss how the change to the working week might work for them, at this point in time you must **not** make any changes to your rota/normal working practices.

As a reminder, this agreement, which has staff wellbeing at its heart, also includes developing a consistent approach to protected learning time, and a defined process for the review of Band 5 nursing posts.

We know the lack of detail and national guidance regarding these changes is frustrating for all of you working under Agenda for Change. We will continue to provide as much information as we can, via this brief.

ARI pharmacy – annual stocktake The main store pharmacy stocktake will get underway **this** Friday (22 March) at 3pm and continue through Saturday. As a result, the main store will be closed, and the following contingency measures should be taken:

- All controlled drug orders should be sent in routine pharmacy drug boxes during Thursday and Friday.
- Do not email **any** orders on Saturday.
- For emergency orders only on Saturday morning call Ext 53227. After 1pm on Saturday the normal on-call arrangements will apply.

The normal emergency service will resume on Sunday 24 March, with a full service as usual from Monday 25 March.

Scottish Bowel Screening Programme On behalf of our colleagues working on this programme, if you or anyone you know is returning a screening kit, please ensure you **label and date it**, before posting. The team are unable to test any kits received without labels.

The Listening Project/Nursing & Midwifery Taskforce The Listening Project has been created to hear directly from the nursing, midwifery, and associated workforce across Scotland, to help shape the recommended actions proposed by the Nursing and Midwifery Taskforce (NMT). In-person focus groups have taken place in every board area; as a final opportunity to give feedback, virtual focus groups will be held on MS Teams on Tuesday 26 & Wednesday 27 March to hear from nursing and midwifery staff about what they enjoy about their work, the main challenges they face and suggested areas for improvement. The sessions will not be recorded but quotes may be shared with the Taskforce. To protect privacy, data will be treated confidentially and identifiable information such as names will be removed when typing up notes from the sessions. If you would like to attend one of these sessions, please click the link below to join the session, there is no need to sign up in advance:

Tuesday 26 March	Teams link
9-10am	Click here to join the meeting
11am-12pm	Click here to join the meeting
3-4pm	Click here to join the meeting
Wednesday 27 March	Teams link
10-11am	Click here to join the meeting
12-1pm	Click here to join the meeting
4-5pm	Click here to join the meeting

If you are unable to attend the virtual sessions, this form is available to collect written feedback: [The Listening Project \(office.com\)](#)

Graduate Apprenticeship programme – closing date this Friday This programme offers appropriate staff the opportunity to apply to complete an undergraduate degree at RGU while continuing to work in their current NHS role. [More information, along with the application form, is available on the intranet here](#) (networked devices only). Your application must have your line manager’s support and you need to identify an appropriately qualified mentor who is **not** part of your line management structure.

Applications close at 4.30pm this Friday.

Tune of the day Our tune today is requested by Claire McCulloch (a HCSW in the community physiotherapy team in Inverurie) and is dedicated to Band 6 physio Rachel Farnham. Rachel finishes her rotation with the team next week and Claire says she’ll be a big miss. She’s requested Sham Rock and [Tell Me Ma](#) (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