

Tuesday 29 November 2022

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**Financial position** As part of our budget setting process for 2023/24 we have been undertaking some scenario planning in relation to our projected financial position. Our projections will be further updated following the Scottish Government's budget announcement on 15 December. One of the key issues facing NHS Grampian next financial year is how rising inflation levels will affect our finances. It is estimated the rising prices of medicines, energy, and other commodities needed to run our services will cost an additional £40 million in 2023/24. We are currently revising our medium-term financial framework to incorporate these added costs and setting up the actions needed to manage these costs over the next few years. Any actions agreed will specifically consider the impact on patients, you as staff, and clinical care.

The Grampian NHS Board will meet on Thursday and finance is one of the items on the agenda. The finance update – along with all the other board papers – [are available for you to read here](#).

**Reduction in additional elective care funding** Over the last few years and like many health boards, NHS Grampian has been receiving an increasing allocation of elective care funding, in addition to our core budget. This was intended to address the backlog of planned care and is formally of a non-recurring nature. In October, we were advised of a reduction in funding for this financial year. NHS Grampian has supported a £4m overspend position but some tough decisions have had to be taken to reduce spending outside legally binding contracts.

This means some outpatient evening and weekend clinics will pause, increasing average waiting times for some services. Average waiting times information is published on our public website for general reference by both patients and all staff. This is available at [Waiting Times Information \(nhsgrampian.org\)](https://nhsgrampian.org/WaitingTimesInformation). Services will continue to prioritise based on clinical need and we ask all teams to help to support this. We are working to analyse the impacts, carefully assess risk and will continue to work with colleagues locally and nationally to ensure we continue to deliver the best possible services.

**Influenza 2022/23 - what we know so far** We've used this brief to share lots of reminders to get your 'flu jab, so we thought the time was right to share some information on the story so far. Thanks to colleagues in Health Protection/Public Health for the ongoing surveillance work.

The Australian experience often gives an indication of what to expect in the UK and this year the incidence of flu peaked high, at nearly 3 times the total number of infections, and 3 months earlier than the previous 5-year average. In Scotland so far, influenza incidence has increased from 'low' levels to 'moderate' and is higher than the same time in previous years. The hospitalisation rate has been increasing and was 2.4 per 100,000 in mid-November, with the highest hospital admission rate in patients less than 1 year old (16.5 per 100,000). We may not be experiencing the pressure from flu yet, but it is increasing, notably in England, where hospitalisations continue to exceed the baseline. Getting vaccinated is the best way to prevent the misery of flu and its complications. Thank you to staff who have chosen to do so – protecting yourselves, your colleagues, and patients. 47% of you have had the jab and it is increasing week on week. As staff, you can drop-in to any vaccination centre in Grampian – [full details on locations available here](#) – and we're pleased to confirm there will be 'pop-up' clinics in ARI from next week. More details will be confirmed in this brief as they become available.

**16 Days of Action – Gender Based Violence and Child Health Practitioners** The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child was enshrined in Scottish Law in 2021. Article 19 of the convention makes specific reference to children being protected from all forms of violence, abuse, neglect, and bad treatment by their parents or anyone else. Children and young people are adversely affected by seeing and sharing their environment with a perpetrator of GBV. Health Professionals are equipped to identify and support the needs of children affected by GBV either directly or indirectly. The Health Visiting Team from Portlethen Medical Centre [have put together this useful guide](#) (intranet link, networked devices only).

**Power of Attorney online seminar** On Tuesday 13 December Healthcare Improvement Scotland are running a free online seminar to increase knowledge – and support early uptake of – Power of Attorney. This starts at 12 noon; [registration is via this EventBrite link](#).

**Grampian’s Evaluation Clinics – The Story so Far** You will have seen several items in this brief over the last few months about Grampian’s Evaluation Clinics. This is a service open to all staff who are planning a service change/project who would appreciate advice on any aspect of planning, implementing, writing up or disseminating an evaluation. We have developed a [‘Clinics on a Page’](#) resource, to provide an overview of the clinics since our relaunch, giving some examples of the types of services that we have supported, and some feedback from Clinic attendees.

We will be doing more targeted promotion of our clinics soon; however, we would be happy to hear from all colleagues who would appreciate a conversation about all aspects of evaluation. If you would like to discuss this further, please contact [calum.leask@nhs.scot](mailto:calum.leask@nhs.scot) .

**Secret Santa draw** A reminder we have 38 vouchers for an overnight stay for 2 at Gleneagles up for grabs in our Secret Santa draw. Terms & conditions, plus a link to the draw, [are available here](#), or you can scan the QR code below if you’re reading a printed copy of the brief.



**Tune of the day** Sometimes you just need an angry song, something you can sing (scream?) along to, to get the feelings out. There are few better songs for this purpose than [You Oughta Know](#) by Alanis Morissette. Volume up, door closed, give it some (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)