

Friday 1 March 2024

Day of Reflection – this Sunday A reminder the fourth annual Day of Reflection, remembering all those who died during the pandemic, will take place on Sunday (3 March). There will be a minute's silence at 12 noon, which teams in all areas are supported to take part in.

Agenda for Change – non-pay elements of the 2023 pay award We can confirm the Cabinet Secretary for NHS Recovery, Health and Social Care has taken a final decision on the important strands of non-pay reform for Agenda for Change staff. We will be working closely with other Boards, and in Partnership locally, to ensure we are able to safely and effectively implement a reduction in the working week, protected time for learning, and a review of Band 5 nursing roles. More information will follow as we work through the details together.

Overseas NHS Workers Day We celebrate Overseas NHS Workers Day today, recognising and honouring the invaluable contribution of our overseas workforce. Our organisation is greatly enriched by the diversity, talent and dedication of individuals from around the world who have chosen to serve our NHS. Their commitment to supporting the delivery of high-quality care deserves our utmost appreciation and gratitude. Let us take a moment to reflect on the remarkable impact our overseas colleagues make in providing essential healthcare services to our patients and communities. Together, let us continue to uphold the values of diversity, equality and inclusivity as we work collaboratively to deliver exceptional healthcare services to those we serve. Thank you for your continued commitment and service.

Work of teams recognised at Scottish Parliament The good work of teams whose stories have been shared with the local media recently have been the focus of a flurry of parliamentary motions. Well done to our dietitians in critical care at ARI who are sustainability champions and paving the way for more recycling. There was also commendation for the launch of a pilot scheme aimed at diagnosing blood-borne viruses early, and the extensive partnership work done to address water quality issues and bring Inverurie's birthing pools back online was also recognised. The 30-year anniversary of our dedicated baby loss ward in Aberdeen was also highlighted towards the end of last year. Congratulations!

Med-Chi Society lecture The next lecture hosted by the Aberdeen Med-Chi Society will take place on Thursday 7 March at 7pm, in Room 402 of the Suttie Centre. Prof Neil Basu will be discussing systemic vasculitides. Refreshments will be available from 6.30pm, and non-members are very welcome. You can email medchi.admin@abdn.ac.uk for more information.

That was the week that was

Monday 26 – information about Clinical Board meetings, consultation on new ‘Once for Scotland’ policies.

Tuesday 27 – service update from domestic & support services, cyber security week, graduate apprenticeship programme.

Wednesday 28 – Shared Learning event, extension of Culture Matters survey window.

Thursday 29 – Rare Disease Day, service redesign toolkit.

[All briefs are stored online, just click this link](#) or visit Working with Us>HR Portal>NHSG Staff Daily Briefs on the NHS Grampian website.

STAR Award We’ve had a little run of STAR award presentations, so congratulations to Joy Miller, Respiratory Consultant, ARI, and Andrea Ferries, Nurse Manager/Adult Psychotherapist at Royal Cornhill, who both received their awards this week. Andrea was nominated for being an exceptional leader who works extremely hard to ensure her team feel supported while showing dedication and commitment in her role that goes above and beyond the job description. Joy’s nomination described her as an encouraging and fantastic mentor to the whole of the Respiratory Junior Medical Team. She is wonderfully patient and nurturing, and her infectious energy brightens up the ward.

To make a STAR award nomination, you can [complete the online nomination form](#), or email the details of the person/team you want to nominate to gram.staffthanksandrecognition@nhs.scot

Tune of the day Our first request today goes out to Vivienne McCulloch who, after 20 years as a nursery nurse at Trusty Ted/Little Acorns, has started her last working month with the organisation. Her daughter Viv has asked for [The Final Countdown](#) by Europe (as a side note, the hair in that video is quite something. I wouldn’t let them near a naked flame, put it that way).

Amy from our regional theatre academy team is soon to be treading the boards in the Gilbert and Sullivan Society’s production of [Yeoman of the Guard at the Tivoli](#) in Aberdeen. She has suggested today’s tune from the show, [I Have a Song to Sing, O](#) by the New D’Oyly Carte Opera Cast from 1993. She says it’s an opera about love, loss, injustice, mischief and overly dramatic plot in the best possible way!

And finally, it’s St David’s Day so a shout out to all our Welsh colleagues, but especially Peter, one of our amazing shuttle bus drivers. Dydd Gŵyl Dewi Hapus! Whatever your plans for the weekend, have a good one. Thanks, as always to those of you on shift. The brief will return on Monday (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