

Friday 23 December 2022

Industrial Action update We know the possibility of industrial action in NHS Scotland continues to get a great deal of media coverage. NHS Scotland, and the individual boards, have not received formal notification of strike action from any trade union/professional organisation. Trade unions and professional organisations are required to give employers 14 days' notice of industrial action. We will continue to share updates as we get them.

Plan for Moray maternity services welcomed by Cabinet Secretary Health Secretary Humza Yousaf yesterday welcomed the plan to return consultant-led obstetric care to Dr Gray's Hospital in Elgin). It was acknowledged the plan reflects the commitment to enhance maternity services in the North and it will now be considered by the Scottish Government and by the External Assurance Panel led by Dr Linda de Caestecker.

Simon Bokor Ingram, Chief Officer for Moray Health and Social Care Partnership, and lead for the project said: "We hope that formal approval will be given shortly. This is an ambitious plan and will deliver significant benefits by the end of 2026 - sooner than had been originally projected. We are pleased that the collaborative approach which has shaped this plan was acknowledged and are grateful for the support we have received to date from government, staff- both here and in NHS Highland - and also in our communities.

"A new, innovative and wide-reaching recruitment campaign in 2023 to recruit the additional team members that we need to build towards a full consultant obstetric service that will operate alongside our excellent midwife-led service. Today's reaction from the Cabinet Secretary is positive and endorses the change and pace required to secure the services we all want for Moray mums."

You can read the full statement from Scottish Government here: [Moray maternity services - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/resources/consultation-papers/cabinet-secretary-statements/moray-maternity-services-2022-12-23/)

New Associate Medical Director appointments Drs Chris Hemming, Tara Fairley, and Emma Houghton will take up Associate Medical Director roles in 2023. In addition, Dr Priti Singh will also join the Medical Directorate. [More information is available here](#) (intranet link, networked devices only)

Campaign aims to cut drug harms and deaths in Aberdeen A campaign has been launched by Aberdeen City Alcohol and Drugs Partnership (ADP) to help prevent avoidable deaths and hospitalisations from drug overdoses across the city. Adverts will run on local radio, social media, and buses over the festive period and will focus on these key messages:

- How to 'SPOT' the signs and symptoms of overdose and how to respond
- Naloxone – a lifesaving drug which can buy time for an ambulance to arrive by reversing the effects of opioid overdose
- 'Stop and Think' to try and reduce drug-related harm.

ADP Lead Simon Rayner said: “Although the festive period can be a time when spirits are high and inhibitions lowered, it is also a difficult time for those people who are most at risk of overdose. Isolation, loneliness, stress and anxiety are common issues which can increase the harms associated with taking drugs. There are many reasons why people use substances, and we want to encourage people to be as safe as they can be and ‘stop and think’ before taking a substance to reduce their risk of overdose.”

That was the week that was Here’s your guide to the key items shared in the brief this week. All briefs – along with the Festive Service Arrangements guide and Power Cut Preparation factsheet – are [available to read here](#).

Monday 19 – Links to the NHS Grampian Winter plan, confirmation hospital supplied scrubs (theatre greens) should only be worn by theatre teams.

Tuesday 20 – Delays to payslip printing & distribution, information on e-payslips, details on 2023 step count challenge.

Wednesday 21 – updated Patient Placement Tool, National Cardiac Arrest Audit, Baird & ANCHOR project newsletter.

Thursday 22 - Preparing for power cuts, pension recycling of contributions, translated versions of winter support booklet.

Letters of appreciation At the start of the week we shared letters of appreciation from the NMC and HCPC; attached to today’s brief are similar letters from the GMC, our Medical Director, Prof Nick Fluck, and our Executive Nurse Director, Dr June Brown.

A Geriatrician’s Letter to Santa Our very own Dr Clare Bostock has written a special letter to Santa, [published by the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh](#). There’s plenty of humour, but also some thought-provoking moments, challenging all of us to consider the language we use.

Festive Frolics Yesterday we asked where you stood on the vexed issue of sprouts and, by two to one, you are fans of the humble brassica. Takes all sorts, I suppose, you are welcome to my serving!

Two tunes for the price of one today: Audrey Mackey, part of the vaccination team at Fiona Elcock Vaccination Centre in Elgin, has us pogo-ing into Christmas courtesy of [A Merry Jingle](#) by The Greedies (Sex Pistols and Thin Lizzy), while Shannon Duthart and the Logistics Customer Services Team take us in a quite different direction with [Dominick the Donkey](#) by Lou Monte

There will be no brief on the Public Holidays, so the next edition will be issued on Wednesday 28 December. I will be leaving you in the hands of my colleagues while I take a break. Whatever you are doing for Christmas – and a big thank-you to everyone working through – I wish you joy. I will see you in 2023 (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