

Elected Members Update for local MPs, MSPs and Councillors

This update is part of our on-going commitment to keep elected members informed of the latest developments at NHS Fife that may be of interest to you and your constituents. We would also encourage you to regularly visit and refer your constituents for the latest news and updates from NHS Fife on our [website](#): or follow us on our social media channels.

Enquiries

To ensure accurate and timely responses from NHS Fife, all enquiries from elected members should be directed to the NHS Fife Chief Executive Office for response and co-ordination at fife.chiefexecutive@nhs.scot. Members are politely reminded not to approach services or individual members of staff directly for responses.

Main updates

Specialist palliative care services proposals

Following a comprehensive programme of engagement, proposals are to be put forward outlining the future direction of specialist palliative care services in Fife.

Developed by palliative care clinicians, and informed by patients, their families, and members of the public, the proposals look to formalise a model of care which has been embedded over the last three years.

A dedicated elected members update in relation to this topic was issued last week and can be viewed [here](#). A public news release is available [here](#).

Queen Margaret Hospital introduces pioneering new enlarged prostate treatment

Queen Margaret Hospital has become the first in Scotland to introduce a new device to treat lower urinary tract symptoms associated with an enlarged prostate.

The treatment involves the implantation of a small device for 5-7 days, after which it is completely removed. The device expands and applies gentle pressure, remodelling the tissue around the opening of the bladder and creating a wider channel through which urine can flow.

Unlike more invasive surgical techniques, the iTind procedure can be carried out under local anaesthetic and typically takes less than 30 minutes.

In recent years, Queen Margaret Hospital has become a centre of excellence for urological surgery, offering a series of new and pioneering surgical innovations.

More information is available [here](#).

Open recruitment event – 25th May

NHS Fife is hosting a recruitment event for healthcare support workers and registered nurses on Thursday the 25th of May.

Taking place at the University of Dundee's School of Health Sciences, Kirkcaldy Campus, we are looking to attract both qualified staff, as well as people coming from a non-healthcare background looking to take their first steps in the NHS.

Those who have already made up their mind about applying can do so online and take advantage of our fast-track scheme, where applicants can be interviewed during the event on the 25th.

More information is available [here](#).

Expanded Path House GP practice to incorporate Nicol Street patients

With three GP partners at Nicol Street Surgery due to retire, plans are progressing to deliver primary care services in a new way for two patient communities in Kirkcaldy.

The approach will see two practices consolidated, with patients registered with Nicol Street forming part of a newly expanded practice at Path House Surgery from the 31st of July.

Both buildings will be retained, with plans still being developed to continue delivering patient care at Nicol Street.

Proposals have been lodged with Fife Council to apply for planning consent to increase space within Path House to accommodate the additional patients.

More information is available [here](#).

Population health and wellbeing strategy

Since 2021, NHS Fife has been in dialogue with local communities to develop our new Population Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

The strategy, which is available [online](#), outlines four key priorities for the next five years and declares our vision and intent to reduce health inequalities and drive improvement in health and wellbeing.

Key to this will be our continuing recovery from the pandemic, which has impacted the physical and mental wellbeing of our communities.

Covid vaccination

The offer of first and second doses for people who are not at higher risk of severe coronavirus ends in Scotland on 30 June 2023. Please consider encouraging constituents to come forward as soon as possible if they haven't already had their initial doses.

Constituents can book an appointment online or phone the national vaccination helpline on 0800 030 8013. The latest information on local vaccination more generally, including flu immunisation, can be found [here](#).

Spring booster appointments are being offered between the 11th of April and the 30th of June. Constituents are recommended to have the spring booster this year if they:

- are aged 75 years or over (by the 30th of June)
- live in a care home for older adults
- are aged 5 years or over (by the 1st of April) and have a weakened immune system

A new video on how to book your Spring booster online can be viewed [here](#).

Sharing our messages

We appreciate the support of elected members in sharing our health messages and note that you have already been engaging with the topics we have suggested on social media - we are grateful for your support.

Help us to help you keep your constituents informed

NHS Fife would ask our elective representatives to share our regular updates and guidance via their own channels of communications with their constituents. By supporting us you can help to ensure that we can reach as many people as possible across Fife in a timely manner.

Accessible information and translation

NHS Fife continues to provide interpreting and translation services for patients despite there being no face-to-face interpretation currently. These assets and further information can be found [here](#).

All Information correct at time of publishing. Issued by the communications team.