

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. For previous issues of the Elected Members Update, including updates on specific topics, please click [here](#).

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

Reinstated procedures due to stepped-down industrial action

As part of contingency planning for the proposed industrial action by junior doctors from the 12th-14th of July, it was necessary to postpone some outpatient and non-urgent surgical appointments. Following the announcement on Friday the 11th of July that the action had been stepped down, our directorates worked to reinstate as many of the postponed appointments as possible. Unfortunately, it was not possible to reinstate all the planned activity, with those originally scheduled for the 12th and 13th of July most likely to be affected. All appointments which could not be reinstated will be rescheduled as soon as possible. More information is available [here](#).

Oakley Medical Practice patient letters

Oakley Medical Practice has written to some patients indicating they should re-register with the nearby medical practice in High Valleyfield on the basis they were geographically closer. While we work closely with medical practices, neither NHS Fife nor the Fife Health and Social Care Partnership were made aware that such a letter would be issued.

We are assured that the letters were issued in good faith with the intention of supporting improved access to care and there is no requirement for patients registered at Oakley to re-register at High Valleyfield. The practice intends to contact all patients who received the original letter to remind them of the option to remain registered at Oakley.

A&E remains extremely busy

Our A&E remains extremely busy, and we would appreciate the support of elected members in sharing any messaging that we put out around the most appropriate use of our services.

Where someone's care is not a critical emergency, they may face long waits or be redirected safely elsewhere. If someone thinks they need urgent care, but it's not a critical emergency, they should call NHS 24 on 111 or contact their GP. In an emergency they should always call 999.

More information about the most appropriate services for constituents can be found [here](#).

Over the coming weeks we are redesigning the signage and information displayed in the walk-up to A&E and in the waiting area. This will both re-enforce messaging around the most appropriate service for a patient's care, but also better inform them about their journey and what to expect during their time in A&E. This will be paired with refreshed web content, featuring community language translations as well as British Sign Language.

A&E waiting times

The latest four-hour emergency access performance statistics show that our performance is improving - despite a continuing rise in attendance. A significant amount of work has gone into ensuring that, whether a person needs admitted to hospital or is well enough to be discharged, they remain in A&E no longer than is necessary. The latest A&E statistics can be viewed [here](#).

NHS 75th anniversary celebrations

Last week a special gathering was held at Queen Margaret Hospital to mark the 75th anniversary of our NHS. The event was attended by healthcare staff, volunteer partners, and the NHS Fife Board. More information is available [here](#).

Local parkruns and junior parkruns also took place last weekend marking the 75th anniversary. Photos can be viewed [here](#).

Path House/Nicol Street GP patient update

More detailed information has been made available to patients at Nicol Street and Path House GP Practices ahead of the planned consolidation of both practices later this month. As announced in April, Nicol Street Surgery is due to form part of a newly expanded practice at Path House Surgery from 31 July 2023. The new approach will see both buildings retained, with the facility at Nicol Street Surgery continuing to be used to deliver a range of services including phlebotomy, mental health support and practice nurse clinics. Work is also well underway to create additional clinical space at Path House Surgery, with works on the first phase to create two additional rooms due to be completed in the coming weeks. Detailed information on the booking of appointments, ordering repeat prescriptions during the transition, and how both facilities will be used moving forward, has been added to the patient information hub [here](#).

NHS Fife Board tour of Queen Margaret Hospital

Last week, members of our Board undertook an in-depth tour of Queen Margaret Hospital to meet staff and learn more about the breadth of activity taking place on the site. Members visited Ophthalmology, Endoscopy and the Urology Diagnostic and Treatment Centre. The tour also visited theatres, which is currently undergoing significant renovation, to learn about some of the new and pioneering day surgery techniques being performed at Queen Margaret Hospital ahead of anywhere else in Scotland. Further, Members were given an in-depth tour of areas managed by the Fife's community services, including the hospital's Forensic Suite, where they met with gender-based violence nurse specialists, the Carnegie Unit to meet with podiatry staff, and wards 1, 5 and 6, which are the main in-patient areas of the hospital.

Queen Margaret Hospital Garden opens to all

The palliative care garden at Queen Margaret Hospital has been renamed 'The Haven' and is now available to all patients, visitors and staff. Since 2018, the garden has provided a picturesque and peaceful outdoor space for all seasons where patients with palliative care needs could spend time with relatives and friends. More information is available [here](#).

Supporting Fife Pride

NHS Fife was proud to have been represented at Fife Pride 2023. Staff from across our health and social care services attended the event in Kirkcaldy, as well as a presence from Equalities and Human Rights, Sexual Health, and Volunteering on the stalls. Photographs from the event can be found [here](#).

Students encouraged to get MMR vaccine

Cases of measles are on the rise across Scotland, and we are using social media to encourage students at schools, universities, and college to ensure they have had two doses of the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine before they start mixing with lots of new people

when they return this autumn. Constituents can call their GP practice to find out if they're fully vaccinated. They can also visit [this website](#) for details on how to arrange an appointment.

[Fife Health Charity Annual Report and Accounts](#)

Over £700,000 was awarded in new grants over the last year to support patients and staff across NHS Fife. Examples include the critical care roof garden and staff wellbeing hubs across hospital sites. The report can be found [here](#).

[Dietitians recognised at national awards ceremony](#)

Vicki Bennett and Simon Fevre have been recognised by the British Dietetic Association at their prestigious annual awards ceremony. The annual awards recognise and celebrate outstanding individuals working within the dietetic profession from across the UK. Vicki Bennett was recognised with the Mary Turner Award for her outstanding work as a trade union representative, which Vicki combines with her role in public health. Simon Fevre was awarded a Fellowship, the British Dietetic Association's highest honour, given in recognition of his years of committed and inspirational service to the profession. More information is available [here](#).

[Healthcare support worker recognised for altruism](#)

Healthcare support worker, Kirsty Ogden, has been shortlisted for the Champion of the Year Award at the Anthony Nolan Supporter Awards. Kirsty, who works in ward 22 of the Victoria Hospital, was just 18 when she first donated stem cells at the University College of London. She does a lot of work with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS), which is partnered with Anthony Nolan, including visiting schools to encourage pupils to join the stem cell register. More information is available [here](#).

[Covid vaccination](#)

The Covid-19 spring booster programme ended on the 30th of June along with the offer of a first or second dose for people aged 5 to 49 who are not at a higher risk of severe coronavirus. Detailed information on any winter flu and Covid-19 vaccination programme will follow in due course.

For constituents who were eligible for a spring booster but were unable to attend for health reasons, they can call 01592 648 048 to arrange vaccination. For those with a newly diagnosed health condition that places them at higher risk of becoming seriously unwell with a Covid-19 infection, their GP or another medical professional may refer them for vaccination at any time.

[Sharing our messages](#)

We appreciate the support of elected members in sharing our health messages with constituents and on social media.