

Monday 6 February 2023

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**Finance Update with Alex Stephen** Today, Alex Stephen, Director of Finance for NHS Grampian, has [recorded this update](#) on the 23/24 financial position and the challenges it poses for us.

As Alex says in today's video, NHS Grampian, alongside all other boards in Scotland, are being asked to make efficiency saving of 3%. This will undoubtedly be difficult and poses us with some really difficult choices.

Alex stresses in today's update that the priority is, and will remain, protecting patients, staff and clinical services which is reassuring as is the commitment to work with teams to identify the areas where savings can be found to reduce waste and to continue to innovate.

This is the first in a series of updates we will be sharing this week, aimed at laying out our position in clear terms, letting you know what is being asked of staff, and to give you some early tips on what you might do to help.

If you have any suggestions for savings or questions for Alex and the Finance team, please email [gram.communications@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.communications@nhs.scot) with the subject "Finance Questions".

**Public Health Waiting Well service** In recent briefs we've shared information about a range of healthcare-based initiatives, aimed at helping us manage pressure in the system. We're shifting focus slightly, to look at how we support people awaiting elective surgery.

The Public Health Waiting Well Service started as a test of change delivered by the Healthpoint service. With waiting lists for elective surgery increasing because of the pandemic, it aimed to build on the existing service and to support the wellbeing needs of elective patients on the waiting list. The service aims to: improve quality of life while waiting, prepare people better for treatment, reduce their length of stay in hospital, and enable them to recover faster. The first cohort of patients identified to receive the service were those waiting for orthopaedic procedures.

**How does it work?** The Healthpoint team contacts each patient by telephone and has a 'wellbeing' conversation where they listen to the patient and look at practical ways to support them to 'wait well' and signpost to local services/groups. They discuss vaccination and screening too, encouraging uptake. Details are updated as required and those who disclose a deterioration in symptoms have a follow up call from a nurse to provide support and/or escalation to clinical teams if necessary.

**What is the feedback?** As part of the evaluation of the service, patients were contacted by telephone, 1 week and 4 weeks after the initial Waiting Well conversation. Most people expressed positive views about the service and the information they received. 85% thought the information they received was useful or might be useful in the future, and an additional 9% reported that the information they received had led to improvements in their life. Many appreciated the call or were reassured to know they had not been forgotten. About 4% felt it was a waste of their time.

To date Waiting Well has had 4509 calls answered, 4353 wellbeing conversations conducted to date. Completed orthopaedics (ARI and DGH) and gynaecology, now started general surgery and paediatrics.

(Linda Duthie, Public Health Lead/ Wendy Innocent, Service Manager)

**Are you interested in becoming a Job Evaluation Job Matcher?** Job Evaluation/Matching is the process of evaluating Agenda for Change (AfC) job descriptions. It is key role in helping the organisation ensure fair and consistent grading and job descriptions for all grades of AfC staff. Currently there is a requirement for the pool of Job matchers to be increased, as a result, the Job Evaluation Team are seeking to recruit interested parties within NHS Grampian to be trained in Job Matching.

A 2-day training course will take place on 1 & 2 March at the Suttie Centre on the Foresterhill site, from 9am - 4.15pm each day. More date(s) will be confirmed shortly. More information and an application form [can be found here](#) (intranet link, networked devices only). Please note, applications for the above training dates must be received by 12noon on Wednesday 15 February.

**Royal Mail industrial action** There will be a 24-hour strike affecting Royal Mail from 12.30pm on Thursday 16 February. As with previous strikes, our local mail teams will collect all post as usual, but there will be delays in collection and onward delivery and services should plan accordingly.

**Mortuary update** Construction has started on the new North-east Scotland & Northern Isles Integrated Mortuary Facility. The Foresterhill Health Campus will house the £30 million project lead by Aberdeen City Council and NHS Grampian. There will be regular updates from the project team; the first edition of [their newsletter is available to view here](#).

**Evaluation Clinics** The Evaluation Network have released new Evaluation Clinic slots for February and March. These clinics are designed for staff who are planning a service change or project and would appreciate advice on any aspect of planning, implementing, writing up or disseminating an evaluation. If you are interested in attending, [please book via this link](#) If you have any queries or if the clinic date is not convenient, please contact: [calum.leask@nhs.scot](mailto:calum.leask@nhs.scot) / [niki.couper2@phs.scot](mailto:niki.couper2@phs.scot)

**Primary & Secondary Care Labs newsletters** The latest editions of these newsletters can be read via the links below (intranet links, networked devices only):

- [Primary Care](#)
- [Secondary Care](#)

**Pause for thought** Where do polar opposites show up in your life? Where could there be synergies and how might you make use of these opposites?

**Aberdeen Sports Village 2023 Corporate Games** The Games are back for 2023, with more events this year, including racketball and netball! If you're interested in taking part, [visit My Healthy Workplace](#). Any questions, just drop a line to [gram.sports@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.sports@nhs.scot)

**And finally,**

Roxburghe House is set to benefit from a second cuddle bed (a wider bed which allows patients to have closer physical contact with their loved ones). Shelby Elrick started fundraising for the bed after her grandfather was cared for in the unit; thanks to support from Friends of Roxburghe House and an amazing donation from Apache North Sea Production Ltd, the bed has been purchased and delivered along with 16 new pressure relieving mattresses.



L-R, Audrey Adams, Shelby Elrick, Fiona Weir (Senior Charge Nurse, Roxburghe House), Fiona Leslie, and Anne Brown (both Friends of Roxburghe House)

Thanks to Angela Nicol in the admin team at Royal Cornhill Hospital for today's request; her colleague Catriona Peel is off to pastures new and her last day is tomorrow. Catriona goes with everyone's best wishes and with [Leaving On A Jet Plane](#) as our tune of the day (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)