

Tuesday 7 February 2023

Finance update Yesterday Alex Stephen, our Director of Finance, set the scene on the organisation's current financial position. Given the significant challenges we face, you might expect us to be minimising costs wherever possible. However, the chief executive team are clear that supporting you in your teams and pushing ahead with innovation is vital as we deliver our Plan for the Future. As such, £4M of funding has been set aside for 2023/24 to support several business cases received through a budget prioritisation process which began in October. This process saw a cross-system group analyse 76 bids seeking combined funding of £40M. Bids were marked according to their fit with our Plan for the Future ambitions, and a final decision on those that had been successful was reached by the Budget Setting Group last week.

A significant amount of work went into each bid and the group had to take some very difficult decisions. We know for every successful bidder there will be more who are disappointed; it simply wasn't possible to fund every bid made. The results of the decision-making process are being communicated to all teams/services who applied, and we will hear more about the progress of those who received funding in the coming months.

(Please note the budget prioritisation process only covered services directly managed by NHS Grampian. HSCPs have their own budget setting arrangements which cover the services that they are responsible for.)

System pressures – your feedback We are currently testing a new way for you, as health & social care staff, to feedback on what is happening with you on the ground. It's also an opportunity for you make suggestions on things could be improved. We cannot promise we can make every change or resolve every concern, but we will do our best.

You can get in touch with us via gram.systempressurefeedback@nhs.scot or [by filling in this form](#).

Staff vaccination clinic It's not too late to get your 'flu and/or COVID-19 jabs! There will be a dedicated staff clinic on Wednesday 15 February in the eye outpatients' department, Level 3, Yellow Zone in ARI. Open between 9.30am and 4.30pm, this is a drop-in clinic, no appointment required.

MS Teams - make sure they're private All Grampian MS Teams (that is, all Teams set up by colleagues attached to NHSG - the Team's 'owners') should be set to 'private'. This means the information in the Team will only be accessible to its members ('need to know'). If your team contains, or you expect it to contain, any personally identifiable data, it must be set to 'private' and be authorised and registered using the Teams registration form. [The form, and further useful information, is available here](#) (intranet link, networked devices only)

A team should only be set to 'public' if you want all the information in uploaded files, chats, posts to channels, recordings of meetings etc to be accessible to anyone across NHS Scotland (i.e., any person working for any other health board, anywhere in Scotland). Please think carefully before doing this, as it

may be better to have a wide membership for the Team, than to have it open to anyone in NHS Scotland.

If you have any questions or you would like to submit a registration form, please contact gram.infogovernance@nhs.scot, marking your message for the attention of the Corporate Records Manager.

Top tips for Teams success

- Don't forget any MS Teams set up by NHS Grampian colleagues must have the 'GRAM' prefix at the start of the Team name.
- Have more than one 'owner' for each Team. This means if one person is unwell or offline there's always another colleague who can manage the Team.
- If you have existing MS Teams that haven't been registered, it's ok to register those now.
- Check the membership of your MS Team from time to time to make sure that everyone who should be able to access it can and anyone who no longer requires access has been removed.
- Double check that your Teams are 'private'

Aberdeen City GP Practice video Aberdeen City Health & Social Care Partnership has been working with GP practices in the city [to create this video](#) which describes the practices challenges face and how patients can support them. You are welcome to share this video as appropriate.

Royal Mail industrial action Royal Mail have advised the strike action planned for next week has been cancelled and they will offering their usual service.

Could you Mentor a Medical Student? The University of Aberdeen's Careers and Employability Service are looking for volunteer mentors (medical staff, FY2 level and above) for their Career Mentoring Programme for medical students. The programme will run between April-June 2023; the team are looking for mentors who can commit 1-2 hours per month to mentor current medical students

Previous experience is not required; rather good communication skills and a non-judgmental manner. Mentors will be provided with a Certificate at the end of the mentoring process, which would be a fantastic addition to CVs, training e-portfolios, and can be used for CPD purposes.

Student demand to participate in the programme is high; the more volunteers, the more students who will benefit. To find out more and to register to become a mentor (and to read more about mentors' experiences) please visit www.abdn.ac.uk/mentoring. The deadline for applications to be a mentor for 2023 is Friday 3 March.

Ticket offer Treading the Boards student musical society take to the stage at Aberdeen Arts Centre from tomorrow (8 February) in their production of Grease. They're offering you 50% off tickets (for the opening night only) with the code *Dannyzucode*, [click here for tickets](#).

Tune of the day Hannah Davidson, a secretary in the CAMHS team, is also a member of Treading the Boards, so our thanks to her for highlighting the discount. In return, we must include something from the Grease soundtrack; are you ready to hit the high note in [Summer Lovin'](#)? (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