

Tuesday 18 March 2023

**Director of Public Health – annual report** Susan Webb, our Director of Public Health, has published her annual report, with the cost of living, higher demand for health & social care services, infectious diseases, and climate change identified as the big challenges to the wellbeing of local people.

[“Delivering Change, Improving Lives...”](#) reflects on the difficult experience of the last 3 years, but also highlights that, prior to COVID-19, improvements in health had been stalling for a decade.

Susan said: “As my report makes clear, life expectancy is no longer improving and premature deaths are increasing. The pandemic exposed the level of health inequality which exists in communities across Grampian. Our experience here is not unique; we are seeing similar challenges right across Scotland, and the UK.

“My hope is this report will be a trigger for all of us to act. Almost every aspect of our lives impacts our health – our jobs, homes, education, transport, poverty and discrimination. Health improvement is not solely the responsibility of the NHS; we need other organisations, communities, and individuals to all play their part. Healthier lives are within reach for all of us, but that requires all of us to take action. I am pleased at the willingness of our local partners to be involved in this. When we work together, we can create the building blocks for a healthier, fairer, and safer place to live for everyone.”

**Resumption of Trichomonas vaginalis screening** The technical problems which caused the Microbiology laboratory to be unable to perform Trichomonas vaginalis screening as part of the Chlamydia RNA and Gonococcal DNA test for female patients have now been resolved. Samples should be submitted as normal; contact the Microbiology Department on 01224 552444 if further information is required

**HEPMA – going live on Ward 103, ARI** HEPMA has gone live in its second early adopter site, Ward 103 at ARI. While staff on the ward will be the ones actively using the system, it’s important for everyone who supports Ward 103 to also be familiar with HEPMA. This may be to view Medication charts and administration history, or you may have a patient transferred from W103 and wish to view their original medicines reconciliation. [Much more detailed information is available on the intranet here.](#)

**Pride in Aberdeen 2023** We are thrilled to say we will be taking part in the Grampian Pride parade in Aberdeen on Saturday 27 May. We want to invite people working for the NHS and the HSCPs to join us in demonstrating our support of – and solidarity with – our LGBTQIA colleagues, patients, and friends. While individual registration for the parade is no longer required, the organisers have asked large groups to confirm approximate numbers with them. [If you want to join us, please complete this short form.](#)

**National Realistic Medicine Conference** Registration for the National Realistic Medicine Conference 2023: Sustainable Care that Matters is now open. This event takes place next Tuesday (25 April) at the Technology Innovation Centre in Glasgow. Programme and registration details can be found via this link: [Realistic Medicine Conference 2023: Sustainable Care that Matters – Realistic Medicine](#) Virtual attendees are only able to attend the plenary sessions, for information.

**NMAHP Welcome Session** Are you a new graduate nurse, midwife or AHP? If you missed the last session in November, we would like to invite you to the next NMAHP Welcome Session. The session allows you to meet some of the Senior Leadership Team whilst finding out more about NHS Grampian Support Services and Flying Start Programme. The session will be held via MS Teams on Thursday 4 May 2-4.30pm. Please speak with your senior charge nurse or team leader before booking on TURAS by searching 'Welcome Session'.

**Bicycle security on site** There was a recent attempt to steal an e-bike from one of the hospital grounds. [Police Scotland have issued some advice on how to secure your bike](#); here's our top tips:

- Always lock your bike with a secure lock – search for secure bike locks here: [Sold Secure - Security Product Testing & Approval](#)
- Secure your bike frame and not just the wheel as wheels are easy to remove.
- Register your bike on the [National Bike Register](#)
- Whilst at work, park your bike in a secure storage area [such as these](#). If you aren't sure where to find secure bicycle storage at your workplace or would like to ask about how to install some, email [Katrina.Schofield@nhs.scot](mailto:Katrina.Schofield@nhs.scot). If there is no secure bicycle storage, try to park your bicycle somewhere visible.

**Tune of the day** What a difference the sunshine makes, eh? I hope you've been able to get a little time to get outside today and top up your Vitamin D. [Sunny by Boney M](#) is 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)