

Tuesday 27 June 2023

Industrial action update Our local Industrial Action Short Life Working Group met again this afternoon. We are finalising the FAQs we mentioned last week, and we intend to share this with you tomorrow. We understand many of you have questions about the forthcoming action and the impact it will have; we are grateful for your patience.

When industrial action was first announced, we asked all services to pause the processing of any **new** requests for annual leave during the strike dates **only** (12-15 July). We are taking a cautious approach to planning for industrial action and, as a consequence, have decided that this pause remains in place; for clarity, it does **not** affect any leave on these dates booked and confirmed prior to 13 June 2023. This is being kept under review and we will inform you, via this brief, when the pause can be lifted.

Vapes disposal All vapes - whether reusable or single use - contain a lithium battery as the power source. Lithium batteries are notorious for causing fires when they either overheat or are broken - it is estimated vapes cause one fire **every day** in the waste industry alone. **Under no circumstances should vapes be disposed of in general waste, recycling, or clinical waste bags if the battery is still intact.**

Whether it is your vape or a device you've found on one of our sites, the battery should be removed and placed into the nearest battery collection point. The rest of the vape can then be disposed of in general waste bags. If batteries cannot be removed, then the whole device should either be placed into a battery collection point, or boxed up and labelled as W.E.E.E. Recycling, Central Stores.

Be careful when posting information Even though our work is increasingly digital, as an organisation we still post thousands of items each day. Sending information to the wrong person can cause distress and harm. Simple mistakes like picking up two letters instead of one, or mis-addressing an envelope are easy to make if you're working your way through a stack of outgoing mail. Asking a colleague to double-check the right letter is in the right envelope before you post them, using place-markers to help you spot where one letter ends and the next one starts, or dividing envelopes are all ways we can prevent mistakes from happening.

It's more common than you might think for two people with the same name to be receiving treatment or care at the same time; sometimes even in the same service. When sending information out, check names and addresses using more than one identifier (for instance name and CHI) to reduce the risk of information for one person is sent to someone else. Finally, if you send a letter and it ends up at the wrong address, the person who receives it by mistake can return it without opening it if you put a return address on the back. If you're concerned about identifying a letter from the NHS – for example, because the information is sensitive, or the person receiving it is in a vulnerable situation - double envelope the contents and put the return address on the back of the inner envelope.

Culture Collaborative Colleagues from across NHS Grampian and the HSCPs are invited and encouraged to attend the next Culture Collaborative session, this Thursday (29 June) between 3-4.20pm. The focus will be a spotlight session presented by Jason Nicol and his team titled 'It ain't what you do, it's the way that you do it'. There will also receive an update on Year of the Manager from Fiona Soutar. This forum is open to all irrespective of your role. If you are interested in attending, please contact gram.culturematters@nhs.scot for the Teams link.

NHS at 75 – your stories and archive The 75th Anniversary of the NHS is just over a week away and with help from our archivist, Fiona Musk, we're using our social media accounts and digital screens at ARI and DGH to share some images from the previous seven (and a half) decades. We have accounts on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter, so be sure to check the photos out.

Thanks to everyone who has already shared the story of their career with the NHS; there's still time to add to this if you would like. We're looking for 200-250 words describing where you started, plus any photos you want to share; simply send these to gram.communications@nhs.scot, using the subject NHS at 75 – my story.

A decade of Aroma Our first Aroma coffee shop, on the concourse at ARI, is about to mark its tenth birthday and the team are planning a week of celebrations, starting on Monday 3 July. If your disposable Aroma cup has this orange sticker (below) on it, you'll be given a fully stamped card to get your next drink for free. The team will also be giving out cards, at random, to people bringing a reusable cup



Aroma doesn't just serve great coffee; it also has a range of sandwiches and snacks. If you spot this sticker (below) on any product, then it's free of charge!



Finally, wish the team happy birthday, and you can leave your details to be part of a raffle to win your own keep cup.

Tune of the day Our tune today goes out to Fiona Davidson, recruitment co-ordinator for the community nursing team based at Foresterhill Health Centre. Fiona is marking a special birthday (I'm told she prefers to refer to it as 30x2) and Christine and the team wanted to say Happy Birthday Fifi D! Handily enough, [here's Stevie Wonder to say the same](#) (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