Glasgow’s hospitals are undergoing a period of radical change. £750 million is being invested to build state-of-the-art facilities at the Southern General Hospital, Glasgow Royal Infirmary and Gartnavel General Hospital and two brand new hospitals at Stobhill and Victoria. This major programme of work is scheduled to be completed within a decade but many signs of Scotland’s largest ever investment in hospital modernisation are already evident across the city.

This issue of Health News brings you the latest on these developments including our vision for inpatient care in 2010 and beyond, our plans to revolutionise your experience in A&E, plus the latest on the new Beatson.

For more information about NHS Greater Glasgow ... log on to our website at www.nhsgg.org.uk
THE NEW VICTORIA HOSPITAL WILL PROVIDE...

The past, present and future of the Victoria. In 1878, Stobhill and Victoria hospitals, the first in Scotland, opened their doors.

...Adtrailer campaign spreads the word

Some Answers to your Questions

Outpatient Clinics

- Anti-coagulation (blood thinning) treatments
- Audiovestibular (hearing) tests
- Cardiology (heart) investigations
- Diabetes
- Eye, Nose & Throat (otolaryngology) consultations
- General Medicine
- General Surgery
- Gynaecology
- Haematology (blood)
- Medicine for the Elderly
- Obstetrics (women's health)
- Ophthalmology
- Orthopaedics (muscles and joints)
- Plastic Surgery
- Pre-assessment
- Renal Medicine
- Rheumatology (joints, tendons, muscles, ligaments)
- Stroke Rehabilitation
- Urology (urinary system)
- Women's Health Investigation
- Day Surgery and Endoscopic Investigations
- Eye, Nose & Throat
- Gastroenterology
- Haematology
- General Medicine
- General Surgery
- Gynaecology
- Haematology
- Medicine for the Elderly
- Obstetrics (women's health)
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- Orthopaedics (muscles and joints)
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- Pre-assessment
- Renal Medicine
- Rheumatology (joints, tendons, muscles, ligaments)
- Stroke Rehabilitation
- Urology (urinary system)

Services

- Day Surgery and Endoscopic Investigations
- Eye, Nose & Throat
- Gastroenterology
- Haematology
- General Medicine
- General Surgery
- Gynaecology
- Haematology
- Medicine for the Elderly
- Obstetrics (women's health)
- Ophthalmology
- Orthopaedics (muscles and joints)
- Plastic Surgery
- Pre-assessment
- Renal Medicine
- Rheumatology (joints, tendons, muscles, ligaments)
- Stroke Rehabilitation
- Urology (urinary system)

THE NEW STOBHILL HOSPITAL WILL PROVIDE...

The past, present and future of the Stobhill. In 1893, Dr William Armstrong, the first surgeon to perform a successful appendectomy, opened the doors of the Stobhill Hospital.

...Adtrailer campaign spreads the word

Some Answers to your Questions

Outpatient Clinics

- Cardiology (heart)
- Chronic Pain (pain management)
- Dermatology
- Diabetes
- Eye, Nose & Throat (otolaryngology) consultations
- General Medicine
- General Surgery
- Gynaecology
- Haematology (blood)
- Medicine for the Elderly
- Obstetrics (women's health)
- Ophthalmology
- Orthopaedics (muscles and joints)
- Plastic Surgery
- Pre-assessment
- Renal Medicine
- Rheumatology (joints, tendons, muscles, ligaments)
- Stroke Rehabilitation
- Urology (urinary system)

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- Day Surgery and Endoscopic Investigations
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- Urology (urinary system)
Teenagers design own cancer ward in new centre of excellence

By Natalie Walker, Daily Record

By Natalie Walker, Daily Record

**PHASE TWO of Glasgow's new £100million Beatson - also known as the West of Scotland Cancer Centre - is on target for a 2007 opening.**

And the building is really starting to take shape.

Located next door to the Tom Wheldon Building (Phase one) on the Gartnavel General Hospital site, visitors can already see what the new cancer centre will look like.

The walls are up, the external cladding is complete and internal floors and walls are just about finished.

Built over five storeys, the new building replacing existing facilities at the Western Infirmary and will have:

● Three floors of inpatient wards.
● Eight single rooms with en suite facilities for patients undergoing specialised intra-cavitary treatment.
● Regional bone marrow transplantation and North Glasgow haematology oncology ward.
● A patient and family information service.
● A pharmacy.
● Outpatient areas with state-of-the-art scanning equipment.
● Clinical trial and research space.

And the latest in technology... to help us develop the service we can provide using the IGRT, the Beatson Oncology Panel, which is entirely money donated by patients and other groups, has also given us money to hire and fund a research physicist for three years. We have been able to appoint someone as a second radiation technologist, who will be ready to treat patients by November. A first in the West of Scotland, the new equipment will have the ability to treat multiple targets and benign brain conditions. It can provide single or multiple treatments and is also designed to cut down on the amount of healthy tissue to the brain affected by the treatment.

One of these machines has been upgraded to provide image guided radiotherapy (IGRT) which allows radiographers to take an X-ray or CT image of the affected area before using the same machine to provide treatment. There are very few such facilities in the UK and the Beatson's KRT facility, which costs about £300,000, is one of only a few in the country to use this technology...

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**“Again another innovative machine that will cut down on the amount of healthy tissue being affected by treatment which is only good news for patients,” he said.**

Finally, work has also begun on the building of the new £380m Friends of the Beatson Complementary Therapy Centre which will provide complementary therapies to cancer patients.

Professor Rodger added: “We’re very proud of what we’re trying to achieve at the new Beatson. The combination of the new technology and the cancer and relaxing environment will make it one of the most innovative and modern cancer care centres in the world.”

**COMPUTER-generated images of how the new teenage cancer ward unit may look - images courtesy of Smooth5.**

**THE new Beatson will also boast from new facilities provided by charitable organisations. Three charities - Friends of the Beatson, Teenage Cancer Trust and Macmillan Cancer Relief - are funding a range of exciting projects further improving the services offered at the new centre.**

**The Teenage Cancer Trust is paying for a dedicated teenagers unit, Macmillan Cancer Relief is setting up a £2.5 million Chemotherapy Centre providing treatment facilities for up to 45 people every day and the friends of the Beatson is providing funding for a community centre and support centre.**

**New Natalie Walker, Health Correspondent for the Daily Record tells the story of the Teenage Cancer Trust’s plans to fund a teenagers unit complete with patient beds and a relaxation zone designed specifically for young people.**

**Teenage Cancer Trust said the cash being used on the project was raised at a recent appeal.**

**A spokeswoman for the Teenage Cancer Trust said: “We are also having very exciting discussions with Glasgow School of Art - the design department in particular - to look at working with students to design wall colours, corridor decorations and soft furnishings such as curtains and cushions.”**

**“And not just the new build that’s causing a stir on the site. There’s all the new things that are happening next door at the Tom Wheldon Building.”**

**Professor Rodger added: “In addition to all the new things that are happening at the Beatson, there’s a new £100m Beatson building and the Beatson Complementary Therapy Centre which will provide complementary therapies to cancer patients.”**

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**THE innovative IGRT machine allows radiographers to take CT or X-ray scan images.**

**Beatson modern equipment and a relaxing environment are keys to new centre on 2007 target.**

**The new building will be decked out in the very latest technology and is sure to make a real difference to their lives.”**

**Professor Rodger revealed that the inside of the cancer centre will look like.**

**He said: “We know that creating the right environment, with relaxing colours and comfortable furnishings, can create positive surroundings for patients and a pleasant place to work for staff.**

**We have a very active art set, led by Art Coordinator Jane Kelly. Jane is funded by Macmillan Cancer Relief who are raising more than £25milion to make the day units truly relaxing for patients as well as working to enhance the decor in other areas.**

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**THE innovative IGRT machine allows radiographers to take CT or X-ray scan images.**

**Beatson modern equipment and a relaxing environment are keys to new centre on 2007 target.**
NHS Greater Glasgow's doctors have been looking into the future to predict how inpatient care could be organised in 2010 and beyond. Their vision uses a complete overhaul of our services, creating one, closely focused on patients' medical needs at every stage of their hospital care.

Their proposals include:

- Brand new emergency medical complexes in our hospitals to make sure that, within 48 hours of admission, our emergency patients have rapid access to the full range of diagnostic tests and quickly receive appropriate treatment. This will cut down on lengthy tests in A&E.
- New dedicated rehabilitation facilities within hospitals where patients will undergo intensive treatment to help them recover as quickly as possible.
- More critical care facilities for the most seriously ill patients.
- Around 20% of the city's beds will be re-designed to create the new emergency medical complexes and 300 rehabilitation beds will be brought together to create the rehabilitation units.

The proposals have been developed as part of NHS Greater Glasgow’s work to look at future patterns of healthcare and identify new service models. The main focus has been on how inpatient care could be remodelled in the next decade - in line with our £750 million hospital modernisation programme - to help us meet the predicted increase in demand for acute bed numbers.

Estimating future bed numbers

As well as developing new service models and numbers to reflect predicted changes in service patterns, the service has also been looking into predicted changes in demand for beds, particularly in the city's acute hospitals. New surgical techniques mean that many operations are now carried out on an outpatient basis, often they can be done by day surgery or less invasive operations. As a result, it is expected that the number of days a patient requires to stay as an inpatient is likely to decrease. Patients could be treated every year as day cases, with no need for a bed.

The trend for shorter lengths of stay is also expected to continue. Again, by comparing ourselves with other top performing hospitals throughout the UK, the indications are that over the next ten years it should be possible to further reduce the length of time a patient stays in hospital.

“Proposed changes in the way long stay patients are cared for have resulted in our forecast too. There are groups of patients with very long stays who do not need to be in hospital - it would be better for these patients to be cared for in the community. In line with the development of our new hospitals, we will develop plans to ensure that these alternative community services are available for patients.”

Our proposed bed numbers

There are three options for future bed numbers and these show that we will need between 3000 and 3200 beds across the city over the coming ten years. For more information visit our website: www.nhsgg.org.uk/bedmodels

Specialty Proposals

In 2002, when the city’s hospital modernisation plans were approved by the then Minister for Health, Malcolm Chisholm, the final location of a number of specialties were still to be agreed. Further work has been carried out by doctors and others to look at where these services should be located within the new hospitals. They have recommended that:

- Vascular surgery should be carried out at the Southern General Hospital.
- Colorectal surgery should be carried out at Glasgow Royal Infirmary and Southern General Hospital.
- Upper Gastro-Intestinal surgery should be carried out at Gartnavel General Hospital next to the Western specialist oncology (cancer) services.
- Inpatient renal beds and kidney dialysis should be at the Southern General Hospital with kidney dialysis also at the new Southern General Hospital.
- Ear, Nose & Throat surgery should be carried out at the Southern General Hospital.

Developing proposals for service redesign and the related requirement for inpatient beds for a decade in advance is difficult and challenging. Our proposals include a range of options for bed numbers based on varying levels of efficiency and a number of assumptions about future demand.

We want your views on these proposals.

To comment, please either email bedmodelling@nhsgg.org.uk or write to: John Hamilton, Head of Board Administration, Dalian House, 350 St Vincent Street, Glasgow, G3 8YF or fax 0141 201 4463.

Comments should be submitted by mid-September 2009.

Glasgow's hospitals are undergoing an unprecedented modernisation programme and Gartnavel is no exception. Our proposed bed numbers will reflect these changes and reflect the new world-class Leukaemia Research Centre which will centralise haematology, blood bank and biochemistry services on the Gartnavel site. The new £100 million centre will bring single story units to hospital patients at the new Beatson can benefit at the earliest possible opportunity from the latest developments in diagnosis and treatment of the disease.

Elsewhere on the Gartnavel site, planning permission was recently granted to develop a new purpose-built mental health hospital to replace the existing Gartnavel Royal Hospital. The new purpose-built 127 bed hospital will have single rooms for patients with mental health conditions, improved disabled and therapeutic areas and better facilities for staff.

Gartnavel will centralise haematology, blood bank and biochemistry services on the Gartnavel site. The new £100 million centre will bring single story units to hospital patients at the new Beatson can benefit at the earliest possible opportunity from the latest developments in diagnosis and treatment of the disease. Gartnavel is working closely with NHS Greater Glasgow to ensure that the new Beatson centre and Gartnavel are a key concern amongst our patients and the public and we are working closely with both agencies, such as Strathclyde Passenger Transport to identify initiatives that will ensure improved access to Gartnavel and the other city hospitals is maintained.

A Green Travel Plan is being developed to increase public transport access to the site and cut down on use. A car parking policy, to include some special visitor and commuter parking for the disabled, is also being introduced. Car parking charges will also be introduced across all hospital sites with any funding being reinvested to improve transport and car parking facilities.
Glasgow’s new sterilisation centre leads Europe

EUROPE’S largest and most advanced centre for the sterilisation of hospital surgical and medical instruments has just opened its doors in Glasgow.

Based in Cowlaw Industrial Estate, Springburn, the 40,000 sq ft centre is providing a centralised decontamination service for all Glasgow’s hospitals.

Existing decontamination facilities, which are currently used within acute hospitals, will continue to run and will transfer to Cowlaw on a phased basis.

The centre has finally opened in Glasgow.

The £9 million project has already won national awards.

The facility is one of the most advanced and represents different levels of cleanliness from the receiving area where used instruments begin their decontamination journey through washers, disinfectors and sterilisers, to the end of the process in a strictly controlled environment.

Jonathan Best, Chief Executive of Yorkhill and Project Lead at NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, outlined the centre’s potential.

“This is a great success story for NHS Greater Glasgow, bringing together people from all backgrounds to create an unparalleled sterilisation service for our hospitals.”

The nurses perform minor surgical procedures, such as cutting out moles and tumors, at the Canniesburn Plastic Surgery Unit in West End.

Deputy Director of Nursing, Midwifery and Community Health, Margaret Smith said: “This course of kind in Scotland. Nurses train to perform minor surgery

Glasgow’s nursing adaptation scheme set to go national

A SCHEME to help nurses to gain the registration that allows them to work in Scotland has been so successful, it’s being rolled out across the country.

NHS Greater Glasgow’s Adaptation Scheme enables nurses from other countries to gain Nursing & Midwifery Council registration. Run by Irene Rant, Deputy Director of Nursing for South Glasgow, the initiative is also designed to help the nurses adapt to living in Scotland.

It was first introduced in September 2005, the Adaptation Scheme has helped 30 new nurses gain their registration and start working in Glasgow.

“Irene said: ‘Recruiting overseas nurses has been a key strategy to tackle the serious and growing shortage of nurses in the city.

“The nurses who have passed the scheme have been excellent. We’re not waiting until the potential of our nursing staff but patients can be stretched, and it helps to give them priority - the result is that people with minor injuries can wait for hours before receiving treatment.

“The answer is to completely separate care for each group. Two new A & E Trauma Centres at Glasgow Royal and Gartnavel General will deal with the most seriously injured and all minor injuries at any time of the day and night.

“At the same time, Emergency Receiving Units will be set up at the Southern General, Glasgow Royal and Gartnavel General to admit the likes of heart attack patients directly to hospital wards without having to go to A & E. These patients will normally have been assessed by their GP and brought in by ambulance.

“The new service will be based on the creation of five new Minor Injuries Units which will treat a wide range of injuries including sprains, wounds requiring dressing and minor cuts and bruises.

“The centre is based within acute hospitals, will continue to run and will transfer to Cowlaw on a phased basis.

“This presents a challenge for staff to offer the appropriate care to each group. When someone seriously ill arrives in the department, A & E staff have to give them priority - the result is that people with minor injuries can wait for hours before receiving treatment.

“Our plans for Accident and Emergency Services will tackle this long-standing problem.

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“The centre is based within acute hospitals, will continue to run and will transfer to Cowlaw on a phased basis.
**Glasgow’s hospitals, health centres and other health venues should be smoke-free, according to the majority of people who responded to a recent consultation.**

By NHS Greater Glasgow, the smoking consultation asked staff and members of the public to tell us about banning smoking in buildings and grounds, car parks and vehicles.

And the majority agreed that smoking should be banned.

**Evelyn Borland, Director of Health Promotion at NHS Greater Glasgow, said: “It seems the overwhelming majority of staff and public agree we need to make a change and support a Smoke-Free policy, but what needs more consideration is how far and how quickly the new ‘smoke-free’ environment is put into practice.”**

Thanking everyone who took part, Evelyn said: “I am delighted that so many took the time and effort to respond. It’s heartening that the majority of staff and public agree with the policy. At the same time we need to consider carefully the issues raised and the practical suggestions made by many respondents.”

There were a number of works in progress that people taking part in the consultation: Several people felt the information might be difficult and some commented that having no designated smoking provision will result in staff smoking and increasing the risk of fires. While most agreed that there should be a ban on all Greater Glasgow property, many thought there should be exceptions. Those included when premises were regarded as a patient’s home, such as residential and psychiatric inpatient facilities. Even then, smoking should be within designated smoking rooms and not patients’ own rooms.

Many felt it was right that when staff provide services within a patient’s own home, the patient should be asked in advance not to smoking during the visit.

This feedback and more is currently being studied by NHS Greater Glasgow’s Corporate Management Team and will be incorporated into a revised draft smoking policy which will go before NHS Greater Glasgow’s Board for a decision before the end of 2013.

**LOOKING after your health is the job of every GP, says Dr Malcolm Tim Cameron.**

**Pundit Tam’s ‘Wellman’ in more ways than one!**

WELL-KNOWN football pundit Tam Cowan is urging Glasgow men to get themselves a free health check at one of the city’s new Wellman clinics.

Open to men aged 40 and over, working in Glasgow, the Wellman service gives men the opportunity to access out-of-hours health advice and screening on a self-referral, invitation or drop-in basis.

Tam is supporting the new service after hearing recently undergone his own health transformation. He was picked by men from communities across Glasgow to spearhead the campaign to encourage men to use the Wellman service and appears in posters, postcards and even beer mats across the city.

Motherwell supporter Tam said: “There’s a free men’s health service in your area. Call the number below and see what it can offer you.”

**An innovative new project at Glasgow Royal Infirmary has resulted in a 200% increase in the number of new patients seen at orthopaedic outpatient clinics**

And, that’s not all. The number of appointments where patients have been treated has also increased by an equivalent amount.

This is great news for patients needing treatment for problems with their joints and has come about thanks to a new way of working for orthopaedic staff.

Instead of patients simply being seen by one consultant, sub-speciality teams were introduced so that people with specific problems. For example, for patients with hip problems, they might be seen by one for a hip problem and one for ankle problems.

Led by a consultant and staffed by a team of doctors, therapists and health educators, the teams are able to see people more quickly.

The reason for this is that the majority of patients seen were referred and many of the problems were already diagnosed.

Dundee is one of the most successful projects, and the teams are able to see people more quickly.

One consultant is dedicated to the most pressing problems and the other deals with less common conditions.

“Several people have been able to see the benefit of the changes,” said Mr Tim Cameron.

**City to lead in leukaemia research**

GLASGOW will soon become home to one of the UK’s most advanced Leukaemia research facilities.

Based within a new Sherrill world-class laboratory, the new Leukaemia research space has been given the go-ahead as part of a joint project between NHS Greater Glasgow, the University of Glasgow, Glasgow Royal Infirmary and Leukaemia Research Foundation.

To be built on the same site as the new £410m Neurology Centre at Gartnavel, the Leukaemia Research Laboratory will provide purpose built facilities with the latest technology and equipment at the fingertips of the estimated 35-40 Glasgow research experts who will be based there.

“Several people have been able to see the benefit of the changes,” said Mr Tim Cameron.
Kerr this month.

consultation launched by

Glasgow is set to get

Glasgow.

including the west shore of Loch

Highland.

Greater Glasgow and NHS

Department's public consultation

into force.

new Board boundaries will come

dissolved by the end of March

NHS Argyll & Clyde will be

NHS Grampian

for 2005.  You can download

www.show.scot.nhs.uk/sehd/

2005. 

The consultation will

THREE

TRAFFIC CIRCULATIONS

ONE

TWO

THREE

NHS Greater Glasgow

The Scottish Executive Health

The consultation on a completely

open basis - there is no favoured

existing boundaries between NHS

Argyll and Clyde.

The process to choose the

location for the new hospital

will not get under way for at least

six months.

All available sites in Glasgow will

be considered for their
tential for achieving the

given the required location of
children's, babies' and maternity

services.  Chief Executive, Tom

Calder Group, and to

Local Community Health Partnerships

to identify the most appropriate

site.  The Calder Group, a team of

consultants, has been asked to

look forward to working with the

Glasgow said "We look

forward to working with the

Mr Kerr announced in May

last year that more than

the new children's hospital.

including Paisley, Greenock, Port

onto key issues in

reference to key issues in

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over 2004 - 2005 and is

waiting times

and NHS Greater Glasgow, such as

modernisation of services, waiting
times, modernisation of

paramedics and all members of

Services, waiting times and

moulding the shape of NHS

Greater Glasgow, which follows Our

Health 3, Freepost GW 4296, Glasgow G14 9BR Or Fax it to: 0141 950 2726

Or send your completed registration form to:
e-mail: ourhealth@promo-solution.com

NHS GREATER GLASGOW HEALTH NEWS

ADVERTISEMENT

Your invitation to the latest ‘Our Health’ event at Glasgow Royal Concert Hall on 31 August 2005

• How your health services will change from 2007

• Community images of the New Beatson West of Scotland Cancer Centre and the

New Victoria and Whittington Hospitals.

• Questions from experts on health improvement, managed care and partner organisations.

• Announcements of the on-going one-to-one of health discussions with the people

of Greater Glasgow.

• A range of apps for - including a personal rapid and secure vehicle, transport and
dependent and adaptive health improvement, managed care, people and

Community Health Partnership and local community information.

• The options of attending the lecture ‘Lessons Learned of the NHS’ and
time.

Don’t miss your opportunity to get beyond the headlines and closer to the people delivering the future of healthcare.

To register

Tel: 0141 201 4558

Or go to our website: www.show.scot.nhs.uk

Or send your completed registration form to:

Our Health 3, Freepost GW 4296, Glasgow G14 9BR Or Fax it to: 0141 950 2726

Please register by Friday, 30 August 2005.

Irish Examiner, Friday, 31 August 2005

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Nominate your favourite NHS worker for national recognition

The search is on for Scots health heroes

Do YOU know a healing hero? That’s the question being asked by the Scottish Executive’s Health Department and the Daily Record as they launch this year’s Scottish Health Awards.

Once again, they want you to nominate a healthcare worker whom you feel has gone that extra mile or made a real difference in his or her job.

You could nominate any NHS staff member or team you think gave you or a relative outstanding care.

There are 16 categories you can choose from to nominate your favourite NHS worker or team.

So how do you nominate? Simply call 08000 272824 and ask for a form to be sent to you or get your form from the local authorities, charities and other organisations such as the Scottish Health Council.

Nomination forms must be completed and submitted by Friday, September 16, 2005 and the awards ceremony will take place at the Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh on Thursday, November 10, 2005.

So what are the categories?

There are two distinct groupings of categories: People and Services.

People

The categories are:

- Young Hero Award – these are the people who go above and beyond the call of duty
- Thames Police Award – this could be one of the many different therapists who work for NHS GG
- Support Workers Award – this could be a nursing assistant, cleaner or porter
- Doctors Award – do you know of a doctor or dentist who deserves recognition?
- Nurses Award – do you know who provides an exceptional service?
- Volunteers Award – do you know one who gives that wee bit extra?
- Ambulance Team Award – how do you rate the hard-working colleagues in the Ambulance Service?

Services

The categories are:

- Top Team Award – Scotland’s top NHS team could come from any service, anywhere in the country
- Older People Care Award – there is a whole range of staff who provide top-quality care to older people
- Mental Health Team Award – is there one team you think is outstanding and deserves an award?
- Cancer Care Team Award – this could be a range of staff who provide excellent care to cancer patients
- Heart Disease Team Award – do you know of a team or service who provide outstanding services to heart patients?
- Women & Children’s Services Award – do you know of a team or service who provide outstanding services to women and children?
- Mental Health Team Award – there’s a whole range of staff who provide care in this specialist area.
- NHS Healthy Lifestyle Award – nominate the healthy living team in your work area.
- Clean Hospital Award – is there a team in your area that deserves recognition for its work in making sure a ward, hospital, or unit was exceptionally clean?
- Community Care Award – is there a community service (a voluntary service, charity or a hospice) you know of that provides a good service?
- Health Team Award.

COMPETITORS taking part in this year’s Special Olympics in Glasgow knew they were in a high-stakes event where anything goes wrong.

For NHS Greater Glasgow set up a special health centre to care for competitors taking part in the event.

Based at Scotstoun Leisure Centre, the centre was staffed by around 80 health staff including doctors, nurses, pharmacists, physiotherapists (including a sports physio) and a psychologist.

They generally used up some of their annual leave to man the temporary centre and provide medical care to the 2500 competitors taking part in the Special Olympics plus 300 coaches and more than 3000 supporters that came with them.

And they weren’t the only health staff there. They were supported by teams from NHS 24, the Scottish Ambulance Service, the British Red Cross, and St Andrew’s Ambulance volunteers.

Dr Mary-Jo Sommerville, the lead GP and Event Doctor, said: “We were there to coordinate and provide medical services at the trackside and also for the telephone to the 12 sites used by the games.”

She added: “Our job was to keep the pressure off the local hospitals as much as possible.”

Team Glasgow provide gold care at Olympics

Scottish health council

A NEW organisation has been launched to ensure the NHS listens to and involves patients in decisions about their local health services.

Launched in June, the new Scottish Health Council (SHC) is a national independent champion of patient and public involvement in the NHS in Scotland.

Its remit is to set and monitor new standards for how the NHS engages with patients, help the NHS develop and share best practice, and enable patients and carers to give feedback about their own experience of health services.

Before, patients had to rely on Local Health Councils to speak on their behalf, but these groups have now been dissolved.

The new body has a completely different role to the former Local Health Councils and will focus on ensuring that patients have the chance to give their own views to the NHS, rather than attempting to speak on their behalf.

In addition to a national office in Glasgow, the SHC has a local office in each of the 15 NHS Board areas. Each local office will support a Local Advisory Council of up to 15 volunteers.

SHC Chairman Brian Beacom said the new organisation is looking forward to working with the NHS and patients to bring about greater patient involvement in NHS services.

He said: “If we are to have the kind of Health Service that we all want to see, we need patients to share their views and we need the NHS to listen to them.”

Our aim is to work in partnership with the local Health Service in each area and help them to better at listening and consulting with the public. We believe this will lead to better services and better health outcomes for the thousands of people who depend on the NHS every day.”

Although the Scottish Health Council will not deal with patients’ complaints about NHS services, it will monitor how well the NHS deals with complaints.

The SHC is currently in the process of recruiting Local Advisory Council members in the Greater Glasgow area. If you are interested in becoming a Local Advisory Council member, or you would like to know more about the role, please call the Scottish Health Council’s local office in Glasgow on 0141 65 7495.

Our partners

NHS Greater Glasgow works with a number of partner local authorities, charities and other organisations such as Strathclyde Police and NHS 24. Our main partners are:

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