Little workshop of wonders

Orthotics department is helping young patients take their first steps

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We have already seen patients benefit from a range of new state-of-the-art buildings.

Funding agreed for new health centres

FOUR new health centres, costing a total of £40 million, are in the pipeline thanks to an innovative financing arrangement given the green light by NHSGGC.

We are one of a number of public sector shareholders in West Hub Scotland Ltd, a partnership with private sector companies, formed to build community facilities through a collaborative approach to procurement.

The arrangement also allows for funding support from the Scottish Government’s Scottish Futures Trust for investment in primary healthcare facilities and schools.

Outline business cases will now be prepared for the new healthcare facilities in Woodside, Gorbals, Maryhill and Eastwood, with construction expected to begin between 2013 and 2014.

Sites for both Eastwood and Maryhill have already been identified and they are now on track for the next steps in the process.

Chief executive Robert Calderwood said: “Over the next three to four years, Glasgow will see us deliver the next stage of modernisation of our community/primary care facilities.”

“We have already seen patients benefit from a range of new state-of-the-art buildings including the New Stobhill and Victoria Hospitals and new health and social care centres in Barrhead, Kirkintilloch and Renfrew.

“Agreeing a new funding model for the New South Glasgow Hospital, which will be one of the biggest healthcare facilities in Europe. Progress has also been made on new health centres at the Vale of Leven and in Possilpark.

Agreeing a new funding model through the Scottish Government’s hub initiative will allow us to build another four health centres, giving patients in Greater Glasgow and Clyde access to some of the best in modern healthcare facilities.”

Pressure ulcer awareness

A CAMPAIGN to raise awareness of pressure ulcer prevention has been launched by board nurse director Rosslyn Crocket. The campaign, which will be rolled out across the organisation over the next two years, will promote local knowledge and set in place an educational framework for all healthcare professionals involved in patient care.

Rosie Cameron, tissue viability project manager, explained: “There are a number of workstreams in progress such as the roll out of the Surface, Skin Inspection, Keep Moving, Incontinence, Nutrition (SSKIN) bundles, the Pressure Ulcer Safety Cross and NHSGGC-wide resources promoting pressure ulcer prevention. We are also working with other local programmes such as Leading Better Care and the Scottish Patient Safety Programme.”

Roselyn added: “Preventing pressure ulcers is everybody’s business. It is about ensuring everyday clinical practice involving all grades and disciplines of staff is as good as it can be, with everyone doing everything they can to prevent pressure damage to people in our care.”

Across the organisation, there are already very good examples of practice in pressure ulcer prevention.

One is the test of change carried out by tissue viability (TV) nurse Anne Wilson and staff nurse Holly Satchell of the SSKIN Care Bundle at the 29-bed orthopaedic ward 22 at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, a high-risk patient group.

The aim was to reduce the occurrence of pressure ulcers as evidence shows that better outcomes are achieved when all interventions are implemented together within the SSKIN Bundle rather than individually.

Staff completed a questionnaire at the end of the pilot, and everyone who responded stated that the SSKIN bundle helped pick up vulnerable pressure areas and helped them focus on the five elements to prevent pressure ulcers.

“All of this work focuses across all of our nursing care, both acute and partnership, and TV specialist nurses will be updating on all workstreams through regular briefings in our quarterly newsletter.”

For more, visit www.nhsggc.org.uk/content/default.asp?page=s1927_3
A MIRACLE department is hard at work in the Royal Hospital for Sick Children. The hospital’s orthotic department makes supportive devices to help young patients achieve many of the major milestones that most of us take for granted, such as sitting, standing and walking on our own.

Orthotic manager Robert Greig explained: “We’ve been asked to make all sorts in here. But really our job is just to fill in the blanks. What is it that stops that child from walking or moving and what can we do to help them to take the first steps in their journey?”

The orthotics department sees itself very much as a family service. “We are pretty much a constant for these families. We meet these sometimes dreadfully upset families, and we are with them through it all as they come to terms with the child’s condition.

“We are often the link as they move through GPs, consultants and physios. We can see very young children up until they are 16 and very often we get to know the whole family very well. That support is very important and makes a real difference to us and the child,” said Robert.

One thing of concern for Robert as he works on developing various ways to help children and young teenagers achieve milestones is how as children get older, they want to return to using a wheelchair rather than using a body brace or other device to get around.

Robert explained: “Wheelchair usage has become socially acceptable and certainly wheelchair access is much better now than it was even 10 years ago. We are more accepting of disability in a wheelchair than we are if someone uses a body brace beyond a certain age as that is more uncomfortable to watch and to deal with as we are out and about.

“But being able to stand is very important. It allows bowel and bladder drainage and is better for all the main organs as there is less compression on them.

“It improves bone density, causes fewer pressure sores and allows weight bearing. Psychologically it puts us all, kids included, on the same level.”

AIDEN Kennedy was a very excited five-year-old waiting to see the orthotics team on the day Staff Newsletter visited the unit.

Aiden has spina bifida but was here to collect his new body brace, which would enable him to take his first steps on his own.

Orthotic manager Robert Greig explained: “Aiden had been using a plastic body shell since he was two, which we made to help him stand, but he is so enthusiastic that he’s been trying to walk in his shell.

“Aiden’s own instinct is very much that he wants to walk. As soon as instinct tells a kid to stand or to walk, we give them the opportunity to do that so they can achieve the same milestone as their peers.

“We will get kids to walk – maybe they will not walk normally, but we can devise something that will ensure that they do.”

Aiden and his brother Conlen, three, were keen to get his “new legs” on as soon as possible, with both boys taking a keen interest in exactly what the staff were up to in order to achieve this minor miracle in the department.

Aiden was already thinking far ahead – when asked what he was looking forward to most about his new brace, he replied proudly: “Running!”
Our quality commitment

The NHSScotland Quality Strategy aims to drive up standards of care across the NHS and to make sure that the services we provide are safe, effective and person-centred.

Within NHSGGC, we have a good record of delivering high-quality care and across our services there are lots of examples of best practice.

Over the summer, a new online

Team decision-making is driving up breast cancer survival rates

Study shows that multi-disciplinary teams have a significant impact on the number of women surviving the disease

A MAJOR new study has shown that the introduction of multi-disciplinary teams (MDTs) for the treatment of breast cancer in Glasgow has contributed to a significant improvement in survival rates.

The study compared breast cancer survival in the-then Greater Glasgow Health Board area to the rest of the west of Scotland and while survival figures improved in all west of Scotland boards, Glasgow’s figures were even better after MDTs were created.

Before the introduction of multidisciplinary care in 1995, breast cancer mortality was 11 per cent higher in Greater Glasgow than in the surrounding west of Scotland health board areas. After multidisciplinary care was introduced, breast cancer mortality was 18 per cent lower in the Greater Glasgow area than in the other boards.

MDTs involve weekly formal meetings being held by the teams to discuss results and individual patient treatments and lead clinicians from each team meeting regularly with the director of public health to discuss audit results throughout the area.

There are plans to replicate the model used in the breast cancer study to assess the impact of MDTs in lung, colorectal and ovarian cancer. Eileen Kesson, lead author of the report and project manager at the West of Scotland Cancer Surveillance Unit, which is funded by NHSGGC, said: “MDTs were introduced in Greater Glasgow Health Board in the mid-1990s several years before the rest of the UK.

“They marked a new development in the delivery of cancer services, but until now, there has not been any strong evidence that they made any difference to patients’ survival.”

Sir Harry Burns, Scotland’s chief medical officer and co-author of the report, was director of public health in Glasgow in the 1990s and was instrumental in establishing MDTs.

He said: “We are pleased these findings confirm our belief that this is the best way to deliver breast cancer care.”

The full BMJ article can be viewed at: www.bmj.com/content/344/bmj.e2718.full

Mother and baby unit awarded

THE Mother and Baby Mental Health Unit at the Southern General Hospital is celebrating meeting the demanding criteria to achieve national recognition for its work.

It is the first unit of its kind in Scotland to be awarded Royal College of Psychiatrist Perinatal Quality Network Accreditation following a review by external auditors.

Clare Haughey, clinical nurse manager, said: “This is particularly difficult to achieve because you are reviewed by your peers.”

“What it means for our
Harm reduction service is reaching out to the community

Drug users are given confidential advice to help keep them safe

A GREENOCK harm reduction nurse has taken her skills out into the community to work with drug injectors. Terrie Hill is based at Inverclyde Integrated Drug Service in the Cathcart Centre, but spends two hours a week in the confidential area of a community pharmacy giving advice and answering questions not only about the risks of drug injecting, but also how to safely inject.

The service began because some pharmacies who provide injecting equipment are receiving increasing requests for information about wound care.

Terrie said: “Pharmacy staff don’t always have the in-depth knowledge or sufficient time to answer questions about harm reduction and this is where I come in.”

Customers asking for injecting equipment are discreetly asked by pharmacy staff if they have any questions or issues they would like to discuss privately with Terrie.

She said: “I work with injecting drug users and provide wound care and safer injecting advice. “I also discuss the potential risk of transmitting disease and offer blood-borne virus testing using dry blood spot testing.”

Now Terrie and her colleagues are hoping to develop the service by highlighting overdose risks and offering training in administering the anti-overdose drug Naloxone.

She said: “I think this is also particularly important for former drug users who are now on methadone, but who will know of other people still injecting heroin.

“The project is all about taking the harm reduction service into the community to reach people we would not see otherwise.”
AN unusual new recruit is helping spearhead a massive campaign to boost the physical – and financial – health of NHS staff all over the country.

The rapidly growing NHS (Scotland & North England) Credit Union has joined the drive to encourage health workers to give up smoking. And the “star” of the innovative campaign is a grinning donkey who tells smokers they’ve got “Heee-haw to lose by quitting”. Adverts also point out the very attractive “financial carrots” smokers could earn by giving up cigarettes and using the money to access a credit union loan, vastly increasing their purchasing power.

Over the next few weeks, tens of thousands of leaflets, posters and flyers will appear at health service sites across Scotland and the north of England. The material will also be sent out directly to the 7,000+ credit union members.

The Credit Union’s general manager, Robert Kelly, said: “There are very few people who don’t know that smoking is an expensive habit and that stopping will save them money. “However, what we are trying to do in this campaign is show them just how much money they could access if they used the cash they now spend on cigarettes with the credit union. “It’s a different way of getting a very important message over. You could be a lot healthier… and wealthier. That’s something every smoker should consider.”

The novel Credit Union campaign is part of ongoing efforts within the health service to persuade staff – and members of the public – to stop smoking. NHSGGC alone is hoping to help at least 20,000 people quit by 2014.

Director of public health, Dr Linda de Caestecker, said: “Stopping smoking is the most important action people can take to improve their health and also that of their children and other family members. “Second-hand smoke breathed in by children in the car and in the home is a real threat to their future health.”

Fiona Dunlop, health improvement lead (Tobacco), said: “Through Smokefree Services we offer staff free, friendly stop smoking advice and support tailor made to meet your needs including stop smoking medication if appropriate. “By using the stop smoking services, you are four times more likely to quit smoking than by quitting alone.”

Launch of patients’ stories library

Our patients have been working with us to create several short film interviews to help us understand and improve what it’s like to be a patient in one of our hospitals. The interviews have been filmed as part of our work to take forward the Better Together – Scottish Patient Experience Programme.

Rory Farrelly, acute services nurse director, said: “Working with patients to get their feedback is by far the best way for us to find out where and what needs improvement. “I would encourage as many staff as possible take the opportunity to watch these DVDs. We are also interested in finding out what staff think about these films and I would appreciate if those who have watched the DVDs could take a few minutes to feed back their views by completing a short survey, available on the Hot Topic section of StaffNet,” added Rory.

The first three interviews have been widely distributed across acute services. Over the coming months, more interviews will be created and we will update you as to when these are available through the Better Together section on StaffNet.

Above: Edward Stanton, who has cerebral palsy and was an inpatient at Gartnavel General Hospital, features in one of the DVDs
Stars back our campaign against homophobia

Hollywood celebrity Alan Cumming is the latest to pledge his support

A-LIST Hollywood star Alan Cumming is the latest celebrity to back our campaign to tackle homophobic attitudes in the NHS.

Alan’s backing of the campaign has also been followed by Wet Wet Wet star Graeme Clarke, below.

Since its launch earlier this year, the “Standing together against homophobia” campaign – the first of its kind in the NHS – has been supported by a host of stars from stage, screen and sport, together with more than 800 online pledges of support from NHS staff and members of the public and more than 10,000 hits on its web page.

We launched the zero tolerance campaign to highlight that we treat homophobic attitudes and behaviour by staff, patients or visitors as seriously as racism and sexism or any other type of discrimination.

The campaign has also received the backing of leading agency Stonewall Scotland, which works to achieve equality and justice for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

Colin Macfarlane, Director of Stonewall Scotland, said: “Stonewall Scotland is delighted that NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde is recognising the importance of addressing homophobia in its workplaces through its current campaign.

“Unfortunately, homophobic language and attitudes continue to affect lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Scots where they work, but also in the services they use and it is vital that employers take a proactive approach.

“Highly visible messages, such as the Tackling Homophobia campaign, send a clear signal to staff and patients that discriminatory behaviour has no place in the NHS and we look forward to continuing to work with the Health Board to deliver better policies for better lives.”

Head of equality Sue Laughlin said: “We have been delighted by the response to our campaign from both staff and members of the public.

“Our campaign is a very important step in changing attitudes among staff, patients and their families to create a culture where people can be open about their sexual orientation for the good of their health and overall wellbeing.”

The groundbreaking campaign is photo led. The idea is simple – members of staff or the public can take a photo of themselves holding the A4 sign “I’m taking a stand against homophobia” (which is downloaded from the NHSGGC website) and then load it onto a dedicated website to show they back the campaign and that they are also “taking a stand against homophobia”.

To pledge your support to the campaign and join our gallery, visit: www.nhsggc.org.uk/homophobia

Our campaign is a very important step in changing attitudes among staff, patients and their families

To take a stand against homophobia visit: www.nhsggc.org.uk/homophobia
Elaine takes her dental skills to Tanzania

KIND-HEARTED dental therapist Elaine Warner is off to Tanzania later this month to help tackle the country’s dismal dental care and is delighted to be taking an SN Champion T-shirt on her travels.

There is currently only one dentist for every 800,000 people in the Bukoma region of Tanzania. Elaine is part of a team of 20 dentists and dental nurses going to the region to pass on their skills to local healthcare personnel and deliver basic dental services to the community.

Elaine, who currently works between Drumchapel Health Centre and Springburn Health Centre, has self-funded the trip, but is seeking donations to her justgiving page to raise money for the charity she is travelling with – Bridge2Aid.

She explained: "When I got in touch with Staff Newsletter to tell them of my adventure, I was delighted to be offered the chance to wear an SN Champion T-shirt on the trip."

"Travelling to the developing world to help deliver dental care is something I have always wanted to do and now seemed the right time in my life to do it."

"I'm funding the trip myself; however, the more I thought about it, it made sense to ask friends and family for donations to give as much as I could to the charity."

"They do a great job. People in Tanzania can travel for days to try to get simple dental treatment, but often there is no one qualified to help them. Bridge2Aid not only arranges treatment for patients, but helps train local people in emergency dentistry."

We are the champions!

Our SN Champion T-shirts proved to be a lucky charm when an NHSGGC seven-a-side football team took to the pitch at Ibrox Stadium.

The occasion brought together partners NHSGGC, Glasgow Housing Association and the Princes Trust, who all work with Rangers Football Club as part of their youth development programme, for an end-of-season tournament.

Our team triumphed in each game they played, beating Glasgow Housing Association 2-0, Rangers Football Club 2-1 and the Princes Trust 3-2.

Playing for NHSGGC were staff members Michael Nisbett, William Forsyth, David Graham, Stuart Clark, Mark McAllister, Brian Lawson and Brian McMullan, former staff member Luke McCarthy, and David Hall from the NSGH project team.

Mark, community engagement manager, said: "We had a terrific evening playing football."

"It was great that Rangers Football Club decided to bring all the partners together and perhaps, like our curling team who won the national NHS Bonspiel, our lucky SN Champion T-shirts gave us the edge!"

"Would you like to wear one of our lucky SN Champion T-shirts for a challenge? Email: staffnewsletter@ggc.scot.nhs.uk"

Pictured: (back row, left to right) Michael Nisbett, William Forsyth, David Hall, David Graham, Luke McCarthy [front row, left to right] Stuart Clark, Mark McAllister, Brian Lawson and Brian McMullan

Correction

In last month’s edition we reported that Microbiology is moving from GRI to the new Labs building at the SGH. This is not the case – the Microbiology lab will remain at the GRI.

Laboratory and Clinical Genetics at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children will be moving into the new Labs building in July this year.