

Vale News

For all the latest news in the Vale of Leven Hospital
& West Dunbartonshire HSCP



Welcome

Welcome to the second edition of the Vale Newsletter, dedicated to news about the Hospital and West Dunbartonshire HSCP. The Vale of Leven Hospital has a long term future and will continue to play an important part in the delivery of healthcare in Greater Glasgow and Clyde.

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We would like to hear from you about the type of stories you would like to see covered here. Please send any suggestions to press.office@ggc.scot.nhs.uk.

If you have any questions or feedback, please email us at Public.Involvement@ggc.scot.nhs.uk.

Positive steps in GP Out-of-Hours discussions

We are committed to the creation of a long-term, robust and sustainable GP Out-of-Hours service at the Vale of Leven. Among a number of steps being taken to improve the service includes the creation of a local GP rota which will ensure staff are in place to effectively manage the service as we look to extend GP Out-of-Hours beyond the current overnight (11pm-8am) service.

As highlighted at our recent meeting with local community group, Hospitalwatch, a number of positive discussions with the HSCP and with local GPs are ongoing. We will use this platform to keep you updated regarding these discussions, and to share news of additional service improvements.

Susan Manion, Interim Chief Officer for NHSGGC's GP Out-of-Hours, said:

"Working with local GPs is essential in creating a rota which works for staff and ensures we're able to provide a sustainable, high-quality GP out-of-hours service for the local community. We're pleased to report further progress within those discussions as part of the Vale news roundup, and via our meeting with local community group, Hospitalwatch."





Jonathan Best, Chief Operating Officer for NHSGGC, added:

"As we move forward with plans following COVID-19, we are committed to engaging with the local community and we will continue to meet with Hospitalwatch on a regular basis as part of a much wider exercise to ensure the local community receives regular updates and we're able to listen to and address any questions they may have."



Hospitalwatch says 'let's move forward together'

Statement from Jim Moohan, Chair of Hospitalwatch:

"The difficulties of establishing an Out-of-Hours GP service are now being resolved.

The health board is committed to a GP rota system. It is essential to first call NHS 24 on 111 to make an appointment. No one will be refused medical attention and an initial phone call will speed up the process of care.

This is an important change for the community which, alongside the Minor Injuries Unit and Medical Assessment Unit, shall give 24/7 service.

The hospital's services must be utilised.

We as a Community have fought long and hard to reach this point, and as a campaign group we have a good relationship with senior management, based on consultation and communication.



The hospital is now stabilised, so we must now concentrate on improving service provision and protection of the infrastructure to ensure the Vale of Leven Hospital can in some ways complement the strategy of centralisation.

The NHS staff have been excellent during the COVID-19 crisis and our sincere thanks to one and all for their unselfish commitment to our care."

"Our hospital has a future."



New arrangements for patients giving blood samples

The Vale of Leven Hospital is now home to a new Acute Phlebotomy Hub, where people due to attend out-patient clinics can give blood samples.

As part of its response to COVID-19, NHSGGC has made it possible for patients to give blood samples again by creating Hubs at nine of its hospitals, including the Vale.

The Hubs are designed to maintain social distancing and protect patient safety in out-patient clinics. Appointments have been scheduled at 20 minute intervals to reduce contact. The Hubs are staffed by health care support workers and nurses that have been deployed from each site's outpatient workforce.

Vale Senior Charge Nurse Paula Currie said: "Patients are now able to give blood samples again for hospital appointments and will be directed to our new Hub here at the Vale. This is done following a referral from the consultant to the Hub and patients will be contacted to arrange the appointment.

"We're trying to make it safe and convenient for patients to give blood samples as we respond to COVID-19. This has involved the redesign of some of our services to reduce the number of people entering our hospitals.

"We're hoping it will be possible for patients to be able to give blood samples in the community in future and we'll be working with our Health and Social Care Partnership colleagues to achieve this."



Vale doctor speaks of his pride in hospital response to COVID-19

A Vale of Leven doctor has spoken about how the hospital and its staff rose to the challenge of COVID-19.

Dr Martin Perry is a Consultant Physician, based at the Vale of Leven.

He said: “Since March virtually all of my work has been around looking after people admitted to the hospital. We have set up changes in the way people are seen, to reduce chance of Covid spread, and have had segregated wards, with staff redeployed from other areas to help.

“In many ways this has been a bittersweet time. We have seen the sadness of people who have not made it through, and those where normal treatments and tests are limited due to the virus. However, the vast majority have got home safely and well.

Dr Perry says he feels very proud of the role the Vale has played in tackling this world-wide pandemic and how being part of a smaller team in a close knit community has brought out the best in people.

“Particularly in the early stages when there was more anxiety and uncertainty, seeing the willingness and indeed courage of particularly nurses to work quite closely with Covid patients was a real mark of their character that I won’t forget.

“So perhaps surprisingly I’ll look on this as a fulfilling time – that is fulfilling all my training & experience for such a time as this. Being a doctor is a great privilege, as people who need help put their trust in you and I’m glad to have served our community in this way.”

Listen to Dr Perry’s story here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cYDufw9p3xo>.



Construction underway on Clydebank Health and Care Centre

We are delighted to have work underway again at the new Clydebank Health and Care Centre at Queens Quay in Clydebank.

The project is in fact now a little more advanced than this photo indicates.

The building is set in a stunning location, looking towards the Titan Crane, in the middle of a regeneration site which was previously occupied by John Brown's Shipyard.

This will be a fabulous asset for our community and is expected to be completed by late summer to early autumn 2021.



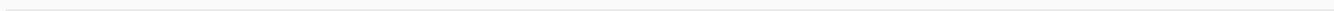
Near Me survey

Have you or someone you cared for had a health care appointment by video call using 'Near Me' recently? If so, we'd like to hear about your experience.

Near Me is an online system which allows patients to have video or telephone consultations with a healthcare professional from the comfort of their home. It also supports the NHS to maintain social distancing. It has already been used to have thousands of appointments by different services across NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, from Physiotherapy to GP in and out-of-hours appointments.

Your views are important to us and will help to shape how we use Near Me in the future to deliver care and complement face-to-face visits and telephone consultations.

Our survey should take no longer than 10 minutes to complete and you can access it [here](#).



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NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde · J.B. Russell House, Gartnavel Royal Hospital Campus · 1055 Great Western Road · Glasgow,
G12 0XH · United Kingdom