

# Core brief

**Message from Jane Grant, Chief Executive  
(5 February 2021, 5pm)**

Yesterday's events in Kilmarnock will have shocked everyone and our thoughts are with our colleagues at Crosshouse Hospital and with the families and friends of those affected.

Along with the difficult news that has come this week, there has also been news to give us hope. A number of milestones in the COVID vaccination programme have been delivered.

All care home residents have now been offered their first dose of the vaccine, as have all health and social care staff. We have worked with our HSCP and local authority partners to set up and open community vaccination centres in each council area and we have made significant progress in vaccinating our oldest and most vulnerable citizens. We have also begun to vaccinate those in the next three cohorts with the intention that they will have received their first dose by mid-February.

This is great progress, as now not only are the most vulnerable people in our community more protected, so are the people who care for them and the most acutely unwell. One person who epitomised this spirit of determination this week was one of our nurses Maria Hewitt, who has joined our growing army of vaccinators. Maria's decision to do this was driven by the loss of her husband John to COVID last year. Maria spoke of the pride she has in this work and her commitment, driven by the fact that she doesn't want other families to go through what she has gone through. Her story was so inspiring and my heartfelt thanks go to her and everyone else who has stepped forward to become a vaccinator.

A special thanks must also go to our Pharmacy staff who are playing a vital part in the rollout of our biggest ever vaccination programme. They have been outstanding in providing vital pharmacy input to the programme including the clinics to ensure that the vaccine cold chain is maintained and wastage is avoided.

Thank you all for your continued exceptional efforts.

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