

Core brief

Message from Jane Grant, Chief Executive
(7 September 2021, 2.30pm)

Following my message to you on Friday, I wanted to update you about steps being taken to address considerable challenges we are facing due to the combined issues of increasing Covid admissions, staff absence and rising emergency attendances. I want to reassure you that the Strategic Executive Group remains entirely focused on taking action, where needed, to ease the pressures on our healthcare system.



So that we can ensure that emergency, trauma cancer and very urgent patients get the services they need, we continue to postpone other clinical activity. This will enable us to realign staff to provide care for emergency and clinically urgent patients and provide support to colleagues. We are also realigning staff working in non-clinical roles to support clinical areas with administrative duties. I want to thank all staff who are moving into other roles to support our patients.

During this time we will also need to postpone non-essential training and study leave for staff. While I realise this will be disappointing, it is important that we reprioritise staff availability wherever possible at this time.

It is also important to note that there are some grounds for cautious optimism as the rate of increase in COVID-19 cases in our local communities is beginning to slow. As you know, changes in community transmission rates take approximately two to three weeks to impact on hospitalisations and while Scottish Government forecasts show that the demand on hospital services will be challenging for the next two weeks, the action we are taking now should help us to counter this.

I recognise that our teams are working exceptionally hard to treat our patients effectively and safely and I very much appreciate your support with that. I would like to thank you all for your ongoing commitment to our patients, their families and your colleagues.