



Jane Gill

Programme Director Maternity Collaborative
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Dear Readers,

I'm delighted to share some exciting updates on the progress we're making in maternity services across our region. We've had a busy few months, and I'm incredibly proud of what we've achieved together.

Firstly, women in Moray and Banff now have access to an enhanced obstetric and diabetic clinic, offering specialist care tailored to their needs. This is a significant step forward in ensuring expectant and new mums receive the best possible support.

We're also celebrating the opening of our new Day Assessment and Triage area at Raigmore Maternity Unit. This modern facility is already making a big difference, providing a dedicated space for assessments and care that's both timely and efficient.

Looking ahead, our main focus is on the return of elective caesarean sections at Dr Gray's Hospital. While we've set our sights on achieving this by next year, I'm pleased to say that we're making great progress. Our team is working tirelessly to bring this service back as soon as possible, and if we can do it sooner, we will.

Thank you for your continued support as we strive to enhance maternity services for all.

Warm regards,

Jane Gill
Programme Director



Enhanced obstetric and diabetic clinic for Moray and Banff women

We're delighted to announce a significant development for the women of Moray and Banff.

A weekly diabetes clinic is being led jointly by new obstetric consultant Dr Kirsty Lees who has a special interest in higher risk pregnancy care and consultant diabetologist Dr Fiona Strachan. The previous clinic team has expanded to include a diabetes specialist nurse, a maternity specialist dietician, and a specialist midwife for complex care. They are being supported by a wider Grampian diabetes network and will deliver a clinical approach which is part of the Once for Scotland aim to ensure consistency of care across the country.

Dr Lees explained: "While we were able to offer support for pre-existing or gestational diabetes at Dr Gray's previously, the new team around this means we can provide a holistic approach to all diabetes in pregnancy care from preconception, all the way through pregnancy and postnatally too."

This clinic is a key part of our commitment to providing enhanced care, especially for those with complex antenatal needs.



Raigmore Hospital: New day assessment and triage area now open

Our new Day Assessment and Triage area in the Raigmore Maternity Unit is now open! The dedicated space is designed to enhance the quality of care for expectant mothers, providing a dedicated space for assessments and triage that ensures timely and efficient care.

The team, led by our senior Charge Midwife Jade Guidi, along with new staff member Anjuli Patel, are already making full use of this facility. Service users have already given the area their stamp of approval with initial positive feedback, and the team is equally enthusiastic about the additional options and improvements the new space will allow for.



Join the conversation on Facebook!

We're pleased to launch our new Facebook page for Birth in Grampian. Building on the success we've seen on Instagram, this page is already becoming a popular hub for prospective local parents and families with young children.

In just a few short weeks, we've seen over 350 people join, and we've been sharing helpful advice, updates, and yes, plenty of adorable baby photos! If you're looking for support and information, our Facebook page is the place to be. Join us today at:

www.facebook.com/BirthInGrampian



Birth in Grampian website review: Enhancing your experience

Exciting updates are happening with the Birth in Grampian website. We've been hard at work reviewing and revamping our webpages, collaborating closely with dedicated staff, partners and service users to ensure the information is comprehensive and user-friendly.

So far, we've updated or added sections on Your Mental Health, Feeding Your Baby, Antenatal Education, and Support for Bereaved Families.

We've also added a brand-new tab for Moray Maternity and the Maternity Charter, designed to keep you informed and supported throughout your journey.

We value your input! If you have any suggestions for future updates or additions, please reach out to us at gram.maternityengagement@nhs.scot Your feedback helps us shape resources to truly meet your needs.



Susan Young

Project Manager

New developments in Maternity Collaborative Team: A warm welcome to Susan Young

We're pleased to welcome Susan Young, who has joined us as the second project manager within the Maternity Collaborative Team. Susan brings a wealth of experience in service and quality improvement, engagement, and offers knowledge across a variety of services including maternity, Adult Mental Health and Learning Disability Services and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services. Her expertise will be invaluable as we bring more new services online at Dr Gray's. Susan is passionate about maternity services, having lived experience herself, and recognises the importance of both efficient and, more importantly, patient-centred care.



75%
Successfully filled positions

1,000,000+
Advertising viewings



A million eyes on Moray and the Highlands

We are thrilled to share some fantastic progress in our ongoing efforts to enhance maternity services in Moray. Through our dedicated international recruitment campaign, which was launched in January, we've successfully filled 75% of the positions needed for the new, advanced maternity services we are introducing at Dr Gray's Hospital.

This is a significant milestone as we work towards providing a consultant-led maternity service that meets the highest standards of care.

We are attending the International Council of Nurses Network Event at the P&J Live in Aberdeen 9th to 12th September. This will be the fourth recruitment conference attended and builds on the national conferences already attended for midwives, nurses and anaesthetists.

Our innovative recruitment campaign, 'Wish You Worked Here,' has captured the attention of healthcare professionals across the UK, with more than 1 million people viewing our advertising since the campaign launched in January.

As readers of the newsletter will be aware, the campaign has not only highlighted the professional opportunities available at Dr Gray's but also showcased the incredible quality of life that comes with living in this beautiful region.

The Scottish Government are now also looking at the campaign as an example of good practice that could be followed by health boards across the country.

While we celebrate this success, we recognise there is still work to be done. Our next round of recruitment will be highly targeted, focusing on attracting consultant and medical staff who are crucial to achieving our goal of a fully staffed, consultant-led and advanced maternity service at Dr Gray's.

We want to thank everyone in the community for your ongoing support, for sharing our job posts and for helping to make our area so welcoming to our new starts!

Community connections: Strengthening our support network

Our commitment to keeping you connected and informed remains strong. We continue to meet regularly with the Keep MUM campaign group and our Maternity Voices Partnerships (MVP) across both Highland and Grampian. These meetings are key to ensuring we stay on top of the latest developments and address any questions or concerns you may have.

There are plans to share the progress of the Maternity Collaborative work with staff and public in the foyer of Dr Gray's this autumn - keep an eye on Facebook for dates being announced. We look forward to meeting service users and interested members of the public to share and discuss what we have achieved to date and what exciting developments are yet to come.



Shelly Munro

Clinical Risk Midwife

Welcoming Shelly Munro to the team in Highland

NHS Highland is excited to welcome Shelly Munro, our new Clinical Risk Midwife. Shelly brings a wealth of experience and will be working closely with our existing team member Kat Scott. Her focus will be on supporting the community midwifery units and our wider community teams and hubs.

Shelly's role also involves contributing to the perinatal collaborative work across NHS Highland, where her expertise will be a significant asset. With her extensive background in both acute midwifery settings and primary care, Shelly is a fantastic addition to our team. We look forward to the positive impact she will undoubtedly make.



Dr Gray's team going from strength to strength

You might recall we introduced you to new obstetric consultant Dr Kirsty Lees in the May edition of the newsletter. She has been busy sharing her new-found love of Moray with the media recently and highlighting why she thinks it's such a special place to be. Kirsty said: "I love it here. It offers a good mix of hillwalking, kayaking and other outdoor things. It's really close to the coast and when I'm on call for Dr Gray's I tend to stay in Lossiemouth, with access to the beach. It's a great place to raise a family."

Programme director, Jane Gill commented: "We're beginning to see the benefit of having additional team members and expertise that is helping us to expand the range of services we're able to offer."

"We are already offering more comprehensive prenatal and postnatal support, and we're continuing to collaborate across both NHS Grampian and NHS Highland to ensure a seamless care experience for local mums and families."

Find out more about working and living in the North of Scotland:

www.wishyouworkedhere.scot/



Get Involved with the Maternity Voices Partnerships

The Maternity Voices Partnership network is more than just a series of groups – it's a community of voices making real change happen. With local groups in Aberdeen and Shire, and Moray and Banff, as well as Highland, the network is always looking for new members (both service users and partner organisations) who would like to contribute to improving maternity services. By joining, you'll be part of a dynamic team that listens, represents, and advocates for local families.

Learn more about how you can make a difference by visiting:

Involving You
– Birth in Grampian



Highland MVP



Thank you for the feedback on the newsletters so far. We have reviewed all of the comments and hope to build some of the requests into this and future publications. Please keep that feedback coming. email: gram.maternityengagement@nhs.scot