

7

Maternity Collaborative

Moray and Highland Maternity Services

July 2024



Jane Gill

Programme Director Maternity Collaborative
NHS Grampian/NHS Highland

Landmark Moments

This month we've reached two landmark moments in our work which I'm delighted to share with you.

With our recent recruitment successes, we now have well over half of the new team in place that's required for the reintroduction of consultant led obstetrics at Dr Gray's and, over the last 3 months, we've seen a consistent increase in the overall percentage of Moray women accessing the midwife led unit and birthing in DGH.

Both of these are exciting and should be celebrated but we also know they are just steps on the journey. (We will be unwavering in our commitment to delivering consultant led obstetrics in Elgin by 2026 and I look forward to bringing you further updates on the progress made over the next few months.

Consultant Supported Triage, DAU & Antenatal Care

We also have several advancements in our efforts to expand consultant-supported triage, day assessment services and in our antenatal care services at Dr Gray's Hospital. These will help ensure more women with complex pregnancy needs can receive care closer to home. Not least is the introduction of new joint diabetic and perinatal mental health clinics which are due to begin shortly.

Recruitment

Recruitment, of course, is ongoing with posts advertised for specialist midwives, anaesthetists, and additional specialty midwives to further bolster our services and enhance our day case assessment capabilities.

Updated Plan

Finally, on June 5th, 2024, the Maternity Collaborative Joint Programme Board approved our updated project plan. This plan, which outlines our strategic initiatives and timelines, is now available to view in the article included in this newsletter.



NHS Highland Launches Essential Toilet Stop Map for Pregnant Women Travelling to Inverness

NHS Highland is pleased to announce the launch of a new initiative to support pregnant women travelling from Caithness to Inverness for childbirth.

Recognising the challenges faced by expectant mothers during long journeys, a comprehensive new map of accessible toilet stops that are happy to welcome soon-to-be mums, has been created to help ensure comfort and convenience.

Karen Mackay, Infant Feeding Lead at NHS Highland, worked in collaboration with local businesses, NHS hospitals and Highland Council public toilets to put together list of supportive businesses along the route.



Power of Google

The new map harnesses the power of Google Maps to highlight all of the participating toilet stops along the route to Inverness, providing an at a glance resource for pregnant women who may need frequent breaks during their journey. This also increases the support offered by public places via participation in the Breastfeeding Scotland Friendly Facilities that NHS Highland have where families are welcomed to stop to feed and change their babies when travelling within Highland.

Karen Mackay said: "We all understand the difficulties that pregnant women can face during long journeys, especially when frequent stops are necessary.

"We want to make things as comfortable and be as supportive as we can and this is just one easy way we thought we could help."

Karen also said the project, which has been viewed more than 1,000 times so far, has already inspired NHS Grampian to look at introducing a similar scheme, is available to anyone via the QR Code or click the button below.



Essential Toilet Stop Map
for Pregnant Women



Recruitment Update

Major Recruitment Milestone Achieved for Consultant-Led Obstetrics at Dr Gray's Hospital

NHS Grampian is thrilled to announce a significant milestone in the reintroduction of consultant-led obstetrics at Dr Gray's Hospital in Moray.

The team spearheading the initiative has successfully recruited more than half of the personnel required for the newly enhanced service. This includes over 40 new staff members who are already in post, marking a crucial step towards achieving our goal.



The new recruits comprise a wide range of clinical professionals, including midwives, nurses, consultant obstetricians, paediatricians, an anaesthetist, and specialists in various fields such as diabetes, perinatal mental health, early pregnancy loss, and sonography.

The new recruits also features a number of staff that will not only serve Moray but also support NHS Highland by working between Elgin and Raigmore.

Jane Gill, Programme Director, said: "This is a significant milestone and one that I know will be especially welcomed by people across Moray. It's taken a lot of work to get here and I want to reassure people that there will be no let-up in our efforts.

Recruitment Success: Over 250 Healthcare Professionals Keen on Dr Gray's Hospital, Moray and The North of Scotland

As readers of previous editions of the newsletter will be aware, we've been keeping you updated on the summer recruitment roadshows we've been holding at national events across the country.

This month, after the completion of the first 3 events, we are delighted to confirm there are now more than 250 people showing strong interest in moving to our area.

The news comes as part of the innovative new **#wishyouworkedhere** healthcare recruitment campaign which has now seen a local team clock up more than 1,000 miles travelling to events across the country.

The recruitment drive has included events for nurses in Newport, midwives in Liverpool, and consultant anaesthetists in Glasgow on top of nationwide advertising on Sky TV, BBC, Google and social media.



wishyouworkedhere
www.wishyouworkedhere.scot



Hannah Ronald

Community Engagement Manager (Maternity Services)

I have spent the past two years supporting NHS Grampian Maternity Services with service user engagement around the national Best Start recommendations. I am looking forward to working with many of you and also supporting NHS Highland in this new joint engagement role. I work closely with the Maternity Voices Partnerships, a range of community groups and third sector stakeholders to seek and encourage opportunity for collaborative working and strive to ensure a diverse range of voices are heard to inform service plans.



Did You Know?

Maternity Services Go From Strength To Strength

Did you know, over the last 3 months an increasing number of mums are accessing maternity services and choosing to give birth at Dr Gray's?

During the period, between 20 and 25% percent of people have opted for Moray's flagship hospital which is an increase the team say they are "cautiously optimistic" about.

So, what's behind this & is this an upwards trend? It's too soon to say for certain – and these figures do fluctuate – but, as we add enhanced services and additional specialist staff at Dr Gray's, it may be that there is increased confidence among expectant local parents.

Stay tuned for more updates on the numbers of births in future newsletters and on our social media channels and, if you're expecting or planning to expand your family, know that you're in good hands with the dedicated teams at Dr Gray's.

Revised Programme Plan

We are pleased to share the newly updated programme plan for the project which includes details on the timeline and progress towards each of the objectives. Above is a summary of the recent progress and the full plan is available to view here.




[Revised Programme Plan](#)

Delivering Safe, Sustainable, and Effective Theatre Services at Dr Gray's

Dr Gray's theatres team this month kicked off a process that will see improvements made at the very heart of the hospital, aimed at providing a solid platform for effective, safer care here in Moray for years to come.

Theatres are vital for services across the hospital, not least the newly enhanced maternity service. The first step involved a two-day workshop guided by an external group of national experts in organisational and team development. It brought together various theatre staff and other key people to share ideas on how to deliver enhancements in the Elgin theatres.

Lesley Gow, Theatre Nurse Manager, said, "This workshop was an incredible opportunity for us to come together and hear from each other, supported by some real experts in this kind of work. The variety of perspectives we gathered will definitely help us improve our services and make sure we continue to provide the best care possible. Theatres are the beating heart of Dr Gray's and we need to make sure we are performing at our absolute best. There's a lot of great new and innovative ideas and we have some work to do but we are up for the challenge and really excited about it."



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