

November 2024



Jane Gill

Programme Director Maternity Collaborative
NHS Grampian/NHS Highland

A Message from Jane Gill

It's an exciting time for the Moray Maternity Collaborative, and I'm thrilled to share the progress we're making to deliver advanced maternity services at Dr Gray's Hospital. This edition highlights the dedication of our team, the investments are making a real difference, and our ongoing commitment to delivering a safe, consultant-led obstetric service in Moray.

While there's still more to accomplish, we have much to celebrate: the imminent return of caesarean sections to Dr Gray's, the new, expanded services and local advancements in areas like perinatal mental health to one of our own team being shortlisted for a prestigious national award. The collaborative is moving forward strongly, boosted by amazing staff and community support as well as our host of new talent.

Thank you to everyone working with us on this journey.



Progress Update:

Caesarean Sections to Launch Soon

We're delighted to report Moray families will soon have the option of caesarean sections at Dr Gray's Hospital. Programme Director Jane Gill has confirmed we're now "well over 90%" of the way toward the having the infrastructure, staffing, and technical requirements in place for this service. The final steps are the clinical and safety exercises, which we expect to complete over the next 6 to 8 weeks.

Most excitingly, Jane also confirmed we're on track to announce a "go-live" date in the New Year, potentially by Easter.

Jane Gill says, "The progress we've made is encouraging, and we're optimistic these final details will be in place shortly. This will be a pivotal step forward for local families, allowing them more options for safe, quality maternity care close to home. A heartfelt thank you goes out to the dedicated teams who've worked so hard to make this happen."

New Developments at Raigmore Maternity Unit in Inverness

Positive updates from the Raigmore Maternity Unit in Inverness: Recently, a new day assessment and triage area were opened, providing expectant mothers with a dedicated space for timely and efficient care. Designed to streamline triage and assessments, this area enhances the quality and accessibility of care for mothers and babies alike.

The Raigmore team has already received positive feedback about the new facilities, noting improvements in the overall care experience. If you've recently visited the unit and experienced the new space, we'd love to hear about it!

Enhanced Support for Perinatal Mental Health

We're pleased to share enhanced perinatal mental health support are now available in Moray. Advanced psychology practitioner Rebecca Riddoch is providing in-person, as well as phone and online, support for expectant and new mothers at the Moray Resource Centre in Elgin.

Rebecca shared, "When I saw this role, I knew it was a perfect fit. I'm passionate about providing timely, empathetic support, and I'm proud to be part of this important work for women in my community."

Welcoming New Talent to Dr Gray's



Dr. Morag Turnbull
Consultant
Paediatrician



Dr. Mandy Hunter
Consultant
Obstetrician and
Gynaecologist

As our team continues to grow, we warmly welcome Emma Grzyb-Yung, who joins us as our new Fetal Monitoring Midwife. Emma brings a wealth of experience, and we look forward to sharing more about her role in our December edition.

We're also pleased to announce Dr. Mandy Hunter and Dr. Morag Turnbull have stepped into key medical leadership roles in the Maternity Collaborative. Their expertise in obstetrics and paediatrics, alongside Jane Raitt, our Programme Lead for Midwifery, is central to our Clinical Leadership team's commitment to creating a fully integrated care pathway focused on both maternal and infant health.

Together, their specialised knowledge and clinical decision-making ensure our programme follows evidence-based practices, maintaining the highest standards of safety and care for mothers and babies.

Finally, we extend our heartfelt thanks and best wishes to Subhayu Bandyopadhyay, who has transitioned to a new role after many years of dedicated support for local families.



Thousands of Referrals to NHS Highland Careers Page Drive Recruitment Success

Our Wish You Worked Here recruitment campaign is making a significant impact across the North of Scotland! Since its launch, the campaign has reached around 1 million people, resulting in thousands of referrals to NHS Highland's careers page.

The widespread interest is a promising sign we're reaching top healthcare talent and generating meaningful engagement with our recruitment efforts.

By connecting with professionals who share our vision for quality care, NHS Highland is building a sustainable workforce to support healthcare needs across the region. This success underscores our commitment to strengthening healthcare services in the Highlands and beyond. With continued momentum, we aim to ensure a steady pipeline of skilled professionals, keeping our communities supported and thriving.



Jacqui Keddie: Finalist at Scotland's Health Awards

A huge congratulations to our Midwifery Lead, Jacqui Keddie, who is a finalist in the Midwife category at Scotland's Health Awards on 7th November. Jacqui's dedication and leadership in Moray's maternity services are widely recognised, and we couldn't be prouder.

Best of luck, Jacqui!



The team met Caroline Lamb, Chief Executive of Scotland, to highlight the progress with the Maternity Collaborative and highlight our #wishyouworkedhere recruitment campaign.

Community Engagement and Outreach Annual Review

Our team has been active in various events, including Moray Council's Family Fest in Elgin and the NHS Grampian Annual Review at Moray College. These events allowed us to connect with local families, share our progress, and promote our #WishYouWorkedHere recruitment campaign, which is attracting candidates from across Scotland and beyond.



Upcoming opportunities to connect for the public or staff **NOV**

Staff

Awareness Raising: Tea Trolley Chats at Aberdeen Maternity Hospital

Informal sessions where Aberdeen staff can discuss collaborative updates and future plans on **Tuesday 5th November**, 9.30am to 12.30pm. We hope this face-to-face format with enticing tea and biscuits will provide a welcome opportunity for our AMH based colleagues to gain a better understanding of the work the collaborative is doing to support Moray families.

Public

Dr Gray's Public Engagement

Join us on **Tuesday 19th November**, in the foyer from 12.30pm to 3.30pm. Learn about our progress and pick up the latest newsletter.

Staff

Ward 3 and Community Midwife Programme Update

A session in late November to update midwifery teams with the very latest progress so they can make sure local families are aware of all the new options now available.



Enhanced Paediatric and Medical Care: A New Era for Dr Gray's Children's Ward

The expansion of maternity services at Dr Gray's and enhanced staffing levels across hospital services has led to major improvements for the children's ward. Thanks to recent recruitment successes, the children's ward has moved from its temporary space adjacent to the Emergency Department to its original, larger area next to the maternity ward. This move allows the paediatric team to operate more effectively with additional resources and staff.

Dr. Morag Turnbull, Consultant Paediatrician, shared her enthusiasm stating: "With a stable team now in place, we're able to provide a more comfortable, tailored environment for our younger patients. The new space enables us to offer individual rooms for children who need additional privacy or care for infectious illnesses. It also includes a dedicated playroom and a separate area for parents, which fosters a supportive atmosphere for both children and families."

Public Listening Forum - Maternity Triage Service

As we write this edition of the newsletter, we're gearing up for a Listening Forum at the end of October to discuss the Maternity Triage service across Grampian. This session is part of a series of six listening forums designed to reach all stakeholders involved in the maternity triage process in Grampian, including feedback from lived experiences. With guidance from international experts at Roffey Park, sessions will bring together insights from staff, service users, and partners to help create a more connected and supportive maternity service.

Since 2018, many mothers in Moray and Aberdeenshire who need consultant-led care have had to travel



In the News: Maternity Collaborative Featured in Local Media

We're pleased to see local media have been shining a spotlight on the significant strides made by our Maternity Collaborative. It's a wonderful recognition of the dedication and hard work of our team and the positive progress we're making to deliver comprehensive maternity care locally. It's exciting to see the wider community take notice of the improvements and innovations we've introduced, which aim to ensure a better experience for expectant mothers and their families.

By continuing to collaborate closely with healthcare professionals, families, and the wider community to raise awareness of the new services now on offer at Dr Gray's, we're confident these improvements will help even more people and see the service go from strength to strength.

You can read full recent write ups in both **The Northern Scot** and **Press and Journal** newspapers.



to Aberdeen Maternity Hospital. While there have been improvements, recent shared experiences on social media show us more changes are needed. Understanding starts with listening, and we're dedicated to building a collaborative culture across NHS Grampian maternity services - where mothers experience smoother transfers, and staff feel assured in the care they provide.

After reviewing the feedback from the forums, we'll hold an in-person workshop on November 12th to assess our findings and plan the next steps for improvement.

Thank you for helping us create a better service for families in Moray.

Please continue to share your thoughts and ideas with us at gram.maternityengagement@nhs.scot

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