



Since our last newsletter we have been working extremely hard and I wanted to take this opportunity to share some of the highlights.

**Jane Gill**

Programme Director Maternity Collaborative – NHS Grampian/NHS Highland

NHS Grampian and NHS Highland colleagues met to discuss and define the high-level milestones of our maternity plan. This was well attended by a range of colleagues and will help us to focus better on exactly what we are delivering.



### Consultant Supported Triage and Day Assessment

We will be reviewing the physical space at Dr Gray's Hospital to see how we can improve access to maternity day assessment and triage services for Moray women. Our hope is to expand the Day Assessment Service from Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm, to Monday to Sunday, 9am to 5pm.

All of these services will assist women to maintain good health before, during, and after pregnancy and will enable them to receive support locally in Moray, closer to their homes, reducing the need for travel for care during pregnancy.



### Future Milestones

In terms of future milestones, there is a lot of work going on already. We are reviewing theatre space at the hospital to enable planned caesarean sections at Dr Gray's as soon as possible, and our ultimate aim of consultant-led births.

We have also set up neonatal and operating theatre workshops with clinicians and NHS Education Scotland to help us develop a sustainable and well trained workforce as we progress with the plans to return obstetric services to Dr Gray's Hospital.

### Enhanced Complex Ante-Natal Care

We have designed the staffing model required to support women who currently have to travel to Aberdeen for non-invasive fetal medicine (blood tests and screening) appointments to have their care closer to home in Dr Gray's Hospital.

We have also started work to better understand how pregnant women with a long-term condition such as diabetes can be supported locally, and receive the majority of their care in Dr Gray's by a multidisciplinary team. Diabetes affects 2% to 5% of pregnancies and its prevalence is increasing. Our aim is to ensure that all women with pre-existing diabetes, and those who are at risk of developing gestational diabetes, receive high quality care, and together with colleagues who have expertise in diabetes and with dieticians, we are developing the service's vision.

Additionally, we are working with the Perinatal Mental Team to strengthen support for women who are pregnant or who have recently given birth and are at risk of, or are affected by, mental health illness.

### Highland Staffing Update

The senior midwife openings have given experienced members of the team opportunities to develop in their career. We have been really pleased with the response to the job adverts and I think that's reflective of people feeling motivated by the opportunities ahead. They know they can be part of positive change as we work towards the development of a sustainable, consultant-led unit at the hospital.

### Moray Staffing Update

Moray is now benefiting from having three additional senior midwives, this means that there is now senior midwifery clinical leadership on shift at Dr Gray's Hospital 24/7, and additional support is available for teams across the local area. Teams will also be welcoming two new graduate midwives to the team as well as advertising opportunities for additional midwives in the coming months.



**Charlotte**, new senior charge midwife, is the youngest says she loves the variety that comes from working in a small district general hospital. She commented:

"We get to support all types of midwifery on every shift as part of a small, close-knit team who have the chance to get to know the women we support really well."



**Dawn**, who is originally from Motherwell, has been working in Moray for the last 20 years. She said:

"I've had so many great learning experiences here that I wouldn't necessarily have had in bigger units, including my advanced practice to become a prescribing midwife."



**Lynne**, midwifery team lead, has been a midwife for 31 years, added:

"I'm really passionate about getting the full range of maternity services restored at Dr Gray's. There has been a big change in leadership recently and I'm really positive about being part of the next steps. We will absolutely make it the best we for women across the Moray and Banff areas."



**Julie** originally trained in Ayrshire before coming to Moray in 1999 after spending a few years working in London. She commented:

"I have been a midwife for 26 years, most of which has been spent in the hospital setting and more recently in community. I love my job and the relationships you build with the women through this special time."

### Help us spread the word about opportunities at the hospital coming up.

To find out more about job opportunities at Dr Gray's Hospital, visit [www.apply.jobs.scot.nhs.uk](http://www.apply.jobs.scot.nhs.uk) and in the 'filter jobs' section, type 'Elgin' into the 'where' box (to increase the radius, use the drop-down menu in the 'distance' box). Then, click 'apply filters' at the bottom. You can also click 'create alerts' to be notified of any new posts added matching your criteria.

Thank you for the feedback on the first newsletter – 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.

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