

PULSE

For the people in NHS Lanarkshire and health and social care partnerships

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Care home vaccine programme gets the Royal seal of approval

April 15, 2021

Categories: Pulse, Pulse - General News

Tags: care home, Duke of Cambridge, Prince William, Trudi Marshall, vaccination programme



Lanarkshire's care home vaccination programme, which is being led by the partnership, has been praised by Prince William.

The Duke of Cambridge recently telephoned Trudi Marshall, our nurse director, to learn more about the programme and hear about the massive sense of relief residents and staff felt after receiving their first dose.

He thanked health and care staff for their hard work and dedication under very trying circumstances.

Trudi said: "The Duke was impressed that we were the first partnership to start vaccinating the country's care home residents.

"He has a very good knowledge of how health and social care partnerships work, but was still full of admiration at how quickly we devised and started the vaccination programme.

"It was great to get a call from him and for the amazing efforts of our staff to be recognised. This is a great example of our work being recognised which is only possible thanks to our staff.

"He spent most of the call asking me how staff were responding to the vaccination programme, especially given the fact it was developed so rapidly.

"I also told him about the relief felt by so many of the care home residents when they got their first dose and what this means for them and the care home staff who have looked after them so diligently.

"Ultimately, our vaccine programme is working so well because our staff are so dedicated. None of us ever thought we would be working through a pandemic, but the team has more than risen to the challenge and shown compassion throughout."

Staff have now completed administering the both doses of the coronavirus vaccine to eligible care home residents.

Photograph: Trudi Marshall, nurse director, Health and Social Care North Lanarkshire

Superhuman care at home service praised

April 19, 2021

Categories: Pulse, Pulse - General News



The 'superhuman' efforts of care at home staff in South Lanarkshire during the Covid-19 emergency response has been brought into sharp focus.

Details have recently emerged on how care at home workers formed the vanguard of a huge partnership effort to keep the most vulnerable people in communities safe.

The care at home service provides essential support to enable people to live as independently as possible in their own homes. This often involves helping a person to wash, dress or get ready for bed. Some staff are also trained to give more personal assistance such as help with medication. In short, care at home are a vital component in health and social care delivery.

"Despite the many complexities of a ruthless virus – which exacted a significant toll on our own capacity – our staff have remained unflinching. Their effort has been nothing short of superhuman," said South Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnership's (HSCP) Scott McNeill, who is the service manager for registered care at home services.

"They have continued to provide services in a caring and compassionate way throughout the pandemic to people across our communities – at a time when life and society as we knew it was all but paused."

South Lanarkshire HSCP has a workforce of 1,000 care at home staff who collectively deliver services 365 days each year. Over 100 office staff support the work of the service – which delivers approximately 25,000 visits each week to over 1,400 service users.

In the adversity of pandemic, innovation and partnership working has characterised the service's response to maintaining the vast scale of their vital work.

"The service itself has felt the impact of Covid-19" continued Scott.

"Staff with underlying health conditions required to shield, staff have required to self-isolate as a result of close contacts with individuals infected by the virus and indeed some staff have sadly been infected themselves. Thankfully, all staff have now recovered.

"With a reduced staffing resource available, we had to take steps to ensure that those in greatest need continued to receive services."

Scott added: "Shortly after the first lockdown, for example, we established a temporary community meals service as part of the emergency response. The objective was to ensure those who needed support continued to receive well-balanced and nutritional meals each day.

"The service was a massive success and reflected partnership working at its best."

Over 100 staff volunteers from South Lanarkshire Leisure, education resources, housing and technical resources have helped co-ordinate and deliver over 14,000 meals over the last year, prepared by colleagues in community resources. An army of drivers have been on hand to check on the wellbeing of people each day and relay any concerns to the care at home service to follow up.

Scott added: "This support has been vital. Although it was co-ordinated and driven by the service, the all-hands-to-the-pump approach from across partners allowed our staff to channel their expertise towards those with the greatest need.

"Overall, our staff have had to adapt to new ways of working, from the introduction of new guidance and PPE to restrictions in travel.



Retirement of Alice Jackson

April 20, 2021

Categories: Pulse, Pulse - People News

Tags: Alice Jackson, Retirement



Alice Jackson is set to retire this month from her position as clinic clerical officer in sexual health.

Alice started working in family planning in 1978 at Blantyre Health Centre as a volunteer. This is where Alice volunteered for an astonishing 17 years. When a job came up, Alice knew she had to apply after working with the department for so long.

In 1995, Alice applied for a permanent, full-time position and was offered the job after a successful interview.

Alice's line manager Geraldine Jones said: "Alice left an impression on everyone she worked with over the many years with sexual health.

"Alice always showed genuine kindness and thoughtfulness to both patients and colleagues alike. Alice has been described by many of her colleagues as a 'true gem' and 'one of a kind'.

"Alice always went the extra mile on special occasions – she was particularly famous for her fancy tablecloths and glasses at Christmas time.

"We will all miss her terribly."

To mark the occasion, the team held a virtual retirement tea for Alice through Microsoft Teams, where staff shared tea and stories about working alongside her over the years. Many staff left the tea feeling emotional as Alice had been such a big part of their lives and they all had shared some amazing times together.

However, Alice will still be busy as she is retiring to spend more time with her husband John, her six children and many grandchildren.

Forty years outstanding achievement

April 20, 2021

Categories: Pulse, Pulse - People News

Tags: Carol Rattray



After joining NHS Lanarkshire in April 1981, Carol Rattray, project co-ordinator for the condom distribution schemes, celebrated a remarkable 40 years' service on 13 April.

Carol has worked across various settings and health centres but has spent the latter part of her career within the health improvement department, working for the stop smoking service and currently the blood borne virus and sexual health team.

Jo Duffy, health improvement senior, said: "Carol is the absolute backbone of the health improvement department, always happy, supportive and going the extra mile for her colleagues. She describes herself as a 'health board girl at heart' and proves this in everything she does, by her commitment to serving the public and ensuring the services she works on deliver for the public in terms of quality and value for money.

"Carol is also very creative and her 'condom scenes' created to raise awareness of positive sexual health messages can be found on the first floor of Law House across from the training department, as well as on the NHS Lanarkshire health improvement social media pages. The scenes attract many visitors and positive comments.

"The team are delighted to help Carol celebrate this milestone and look forward to working with her for many years to come as she epitomises the phrase 'finding the joy in work'."

To celebrate the milestone, colleagues surprised Carol with virtual get-together.

Book sessions for Quality Week

April 20, 2021

Categories: Pulse, Pulse - General News

Tags: Quality Week

Quality Week 2021

Monday 24th – Friday 28th May

Finalised programme
now available



It's only a few weeks until Quality Week 2021 and you can now view our final programme and book sessions.

Quality Week 2021 takes place across NHS Lanarkshire from Monday 24 to Friday 28 May. There is a mixture of face-to-face, live Teams and pre-recorded sessions throughout the week, promoting quality and celebrating the improvement work taking place across the organisation.

Staff can sign up for a wide variety of sessions, including Quality Improvement (QI) networking and education events, infection prevention and control training, sessions on staff wellbeing and many more.

The programme and booking form are now live on the Quality Directorate [FirstPort page](#).

To register for sessions, please complete the booking form by **Monday 10 May** and return to LQA.Qualityweek2021@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk

Karon Cormack, NHS Lanarkshire director of quality said: "I am so encouraged that the staff of NHS Lanarkshire strive to do their very best for their patients and recognise the benefit of Quality Improvement. After a difficult year where staff have gone above and beyond what could be expected of them, I hope the Quality Week programme provides opportunities for staff to learn and reflect."

Get involved during the week on social media using the hashtag #LQAWeek2021



Wheels for Heroes

April 21, 2021

Categories: Pulse, Pulse - For You

Tags: free bike hire, NHS staff bike hire, wheels for heroes



'Wheels for Heroes' is an effort to enable NHS Lanarkshire staff to enjoy the benefits of cycling through affordable and convenient bicycle hire, in conjunction with Brompton Bike Hire, Getting Better Together and Sustrans.

NHS Lanarkshire is providing staff the opportunity to hire a Brompton Bike on a rolling monthly basis, the first 90 days are free, the next 90 days are £15 per month, leading to £30 per month thereafter. With the idea being the scheme should give those involved the opportunity to decide if they would like to purchase their own bike.

The bikes are folding, lightweight and great for anyone who likes to be on the move – you can take them on the train or bus with you for multi-modal journeys, or pop it in the boot of your car.

Peter Buckner, Advanced Clinical Services Pharmacist, NHS Lanarkshire commented: "I jumped at the chance to hire a Brompton bicycle when I spotted the opportunity for NHS Lanarkshire staff.

"I've used these bikes before and they're a fun, convenient and deceptively quick way to get around for leisure and commuting to work in Wishaw, where I can store the bike and access shower facilities. With lockdown easing, longer days and better weather approaching, I'm looking forward to enjoying more cycling, getting fitter and avoid a few traffic jams."

Georgie Stuart, Project Officer – Active Travel, NHS Lanarkshire commented: "We're delighted to be the first health board in Scotland to offer such an amazing scheme, in conjunction with our partners.

"Demand for bikes has dramatically overtaken supply during the Covid pandemic, and this encouraged us to provide more opportunities for low-cost bike hires. By providing top-quality folding bikes, painted in the classic NHS colours, we can keep healthcare workers moving safely, improving their own health and wellbeing, and in style!"

[Visit here to register your interest](#) or find out more information, including FAQs.

Feel free to tag our NHS Lanarkshire Active Travel [Facebook](#) & [Twitter](#) pages in your adventures out and about with your bike too!

Lateral flow device staff testing programme continues

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Categories: Pulse, Pulse - General News

Tags: Christopher Kueh, lateral flow device, staff testing



NHS Lanarkshire is continuing the roll-out of lateral flow device (LFD) testing kits to all patient-facing staff.

All staff are strongly encouraged to participate in the testing programme and register each test and result to protect themselves, their families, colleagues and patients. Staff can register most of their details in the portal so that they only need to record the date and result of each test.



Christopher Kueh, consultant in diabetes and endocrinology and honorary clinical senior lecturer, University Hospital Hairmyres, said: "I do lateral flow testing for Covid-19 mainly to protect my patients as well as those around me. Although there are concerns regarding the sensitivity of lateral flow testing for Covid-19 compared to the gold standard PCR testing for Covid-19, lateral flow testing has its advantages. It is quick and easy and can be done in the privacy of your own home.

"By regularly testing, I can quarantine myself if I test positive and limit my exposure to vulnerable patients, or even the members of public I may happen to interact with outside of my working environment.

"It is initially uncomfortable to insert a swab into your nose but after a few weeks one gets used to it. The sacrifice of a moment of discomfort to break the cycle of Covid-19 infections in hospital and in the community is worth it."

A total of 90,600 LFD tests were registered by NHS Lanarkshire staff as at 16 April. These have successfully identified 404 potentially positive asymptomatic staff across the organisation. This provides protection by isolating these staff and allowing further *polymerase chain reaction* (PCR) confirmation testing thus preventing exposure to colleagues and patients.

Staff wishing to take part in the LFD testing programme can access training materials, documentation and guidance via the following links:

- [A guide for healthcare staff self-testing for coronavirus using a Lateral Flow Device \(LFD\) | Turas | Learn \(nhs.scot\)](#);
- [COVID-19 self-testing for healthcare staff using a Lateral Flow Device | Turas | Learn \(nhs.scot\)](#);
- [Using a lateral flow device to test for covid-19. Key points to correct technique](#);
- <https://learn.nes.nhs.scot/40760/coronavirus-covid-19/protecting-yourself-and-your-workplace-environment/poster-healthcare-staff-self-testing-for-coronavirus>;
- video message from Professional Jason Leitch, national clinical director, Scottish Government – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=frZxhLeqplA&t=3s>;
- [Frequently asked questions \(FAQs\)](#).

Staff are reminded to complete a sign-off sheet when collecting their kit.



For any queries, staff should contact their line manager in first instance who can seek support via site contacts if required.

Photograph: Christopher Kueh, consultant in diabetes and endocrinology and honorary clinical senior lecturer, University Hospital Hairmyres

