

communication

Issue (2) August 2021

ORAL HEALTH DIRECTORATE NEWS

“Working with our partners to deliver the best possible oral health services”



Message from Lisa Johnston, General Manager

Focus on.... GG&C Local Dental Committee

CDO Update – Appointments of Deputy Chief Dental Officers

Dental Bites!

COVID Positive Patients

National Smile Month 17th May – 17th June, 2021

iMatter

Request for News Stories

COVID Vaccination Programme

NHS Digital Passport

International Travel and Quarantine Arrangements

Staff Testing

Lateral Flow Testing

Mental Health Check In

Ask Tell Awareness Sessions

Regional Services Staff Awards for Excellence 2021

Message from Lisa Johnston, General Manager

Summer is here and the weather has definitely been kind to us! As if in harmony, the shadow of the pandemic is receding. During July, restrictions moved to level zero and from Monday 9th August we move that bit further to having almost all of the remaining restrictions lifted. It is refreshing to be able to socialise with family and friends in ways we have done pre-pandemic. However, by maintaining compliance with workplace guidelines; wearing face coverings in public settings; and adopting good hand hygiene, we can continue to keep ourselves and others safe.

During 2020, iMatter was paused in light of the pandemic. The survey has been re-introduced for 2021 and as of Monday 9th August, the questionnaire will be issued to the Oral Health Directorate. I'd like to offer my encouragement to all staff to complete the survey. The questionnaire takes a short time to complete and allows you to provide feedback to share your views on your employee experience. The feedback you share is completely anonymous and will be treated in the strictest confidence.

I'd also like to encourage all staff to take time to complete the Mental Health Check In questionnaire. This is designed to identify any wellbeing issues to enable staff to receive support from the NHSGGC Occupational Health Psychological Therapies team. All information provided on the questionnaire is treated in the strictest confidence.

Finally, I'd like to highlight the Staff Awards. NHSGGC recognises the efforts of staff, volunteers, teams and departments throughout the pandemic. I know that many of our staff within the OHD have gone above and beyond during this challenging time. Lots of fantastic work has happened and it is important that we celebrate this. If you are aware of colleague(s) who you think deserve recognition for their sterling efforts, please submit nominations.



Focus on.... GG&C Local Dental Committee

The LDC are an elected advisory committee to the Board on GDS matters. We meet monthly with representatives from the OHD and discuss the issues that general dental practitioners in GG&C are facing. We also link in with representatives from PDS, HDS and the Universities via the Area Dental Committee.

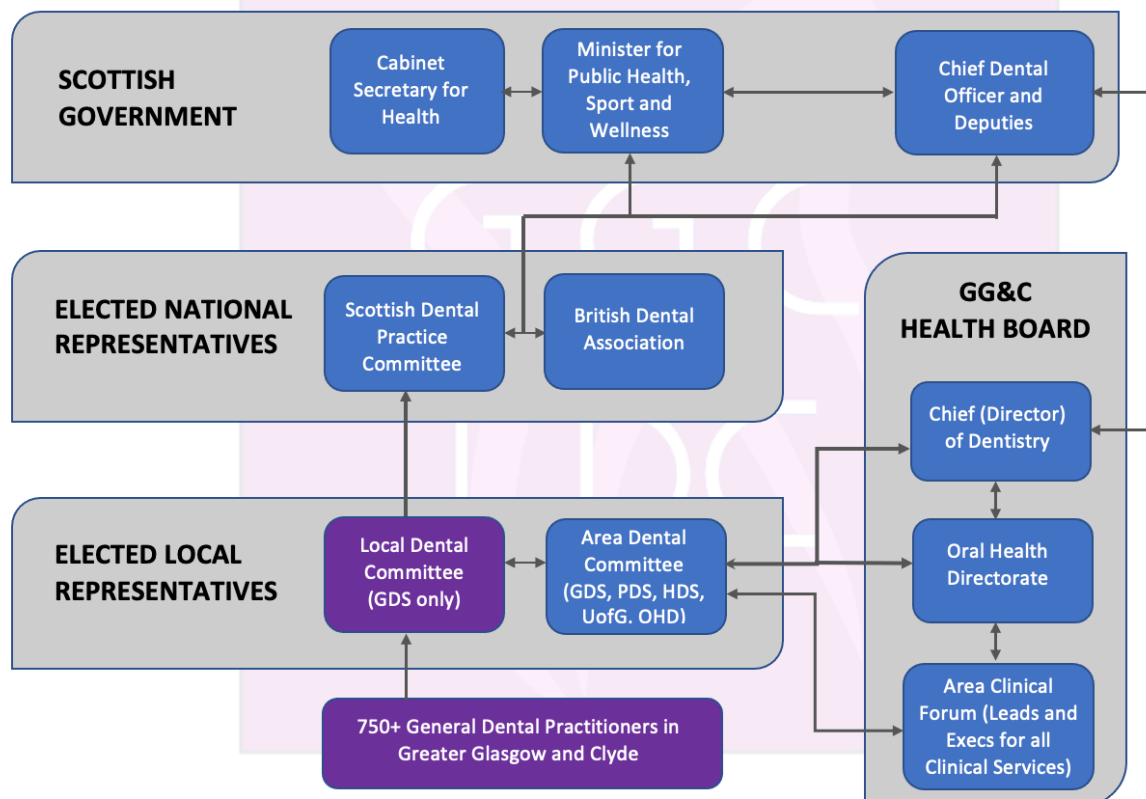
Josephine Weir is the current chair of the LDC, with David McColl as vice chair. Both are GDPs who also serve as elected representatives to Scottish Dental Practice Committee. Our dental secretary, Simon Kidd, produces our regular LDC updates on issues relevant to GDPs and answers any professional queries. Also, our newly appointed liaison officer, Seema Luthra, is hard at work organising our CPD event schedule for the upcoming year (two events are being finalised for the remainder of 2021).

The relatively recent appointment of a Chief of Dentistry proved to be an invaluable resource to the LDC as the coronavirus pandemic unfolded. We were able to meet regularly with the CoD and General Manager. These meetings were invaluable in providing the information the LDC needed to generate our regular updates. The CoD, in addition to our close ties to SDPC, provides another route for local issues to be brought to the attention of the Chief Dental Officer and Scottish Government. We welcome input from our constituents and any concerns can be raised by emailing ggc ldc@gmail.com or contacting us via facebook or twitter.

Representatives from the LDC consult with a number of other groups and organisations in GG&C. For example, we have been consulting with the Hospital Dental Services on changes to the SCI gateway forms. We also link in with other health care professions via the Area Clinical Forum.

Elections to the committee are held annually, look out for papers in January 2022, all nominations are welcome! More information, including contact details for your local representatives, are available on our newly revamped website at <http://ggc-ldc.scot>

HOW GG&C LDC FITS IN TO SCOTTISH DENTAL POLITICS



CDO Update – Appointments of Deputy Chief Dental Officers

A letter was recently issued detailing the following appointments of new Deputy Chief Dental Officers as of 1st September 2021. The three successful candidates bring a wealth of experience to their roles, which will support the continuing remobilisation and recovery phase, as well contributing to the development of Scotland's major programme of change in the delivery of NHS oral health care.

Zahid Imran currently works in NHS Tayside's Public Dental Service, as well as undertaking a Specialty Dentist (Restorative) role at Dundee Dental Hospital.

Gillian Leslie is a General Dental Practitioner and Practice Owner in East Lothian. She has a career background in the Royal Navy, has a special interest in Oral Surgery and is qualified in IV sedation.

Gavin Mclellan is a General Dental Practitioner in Fife, and Vocational Training Advisor with NES. He has been Senior Dental Advisor in Scottish Government since 2018, and latterly, Interim Deputy Chief Dental Officer.

Dental Bites!

In this month's OHD News communication, the Oral Health Improvement Team have provided an update on the activities which took place during National Smile Month (17th May - 17th June 2021). It was great to see the involvement of so many people in the Great British Brushathon, with the Oral Health Improvement Team overcoming the challenges of COVID to broaden the use of social media to reach out to community groups. The way the Oral Health Improvement Team have worked during the pandemic has been an example of how our services have worked hard to adapt and meet the challenges faced in delivering services.

During the last 18 months there have probably been fewer opportunities for to us to smile, and when we have it will have been obscured by PPE. It has been encouraging to see the examples of 'sharing smiles' during National Smile Month. As we continue to remobilise and recommence our Oral Health Improvement programmes let's hope we have more to smile about in the months ahead.

COVID Positive Patients

If you have a patient who is Covid positive, or suspected to be, and who cannot be otherwise managed by Advice, Analgesics and Antibiotic (AAA) therapy, within NHS GGC dental practices can refer patients via email for urgent and emergency care to: ggc.publicdentalspecialcare@nhs.scot and, if appropriate, care will be provided at one of our PDS/Urgent Dental Care Centres.

National Smile Month 17th May – 17th June, 2021



Great British Brushathon

National Smile Month is a charity campaign which takes place every year between 17 May and 17 June 2021 to raise the awareness of the benefits of good oral health. This year marks 45 years of National Smile month. NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde Oral Health Improvement Team (OHIT) invited the public, staff and their children to take part in the **Great British Brushathon**.

On Wednesday 2nd June 2021, The Great British Brushathon connected people from all around the world in one giant communal brushing event.

The oral health team promoted NSM Brushathon 2021 through social media via NHS GG&C Facebook and Twitter pages and with the Oral Health Directorates team brief.

We asked for selfies or videos whilst brushing their teeth and we posted them on social media. We received a number of photos and videos which we posted and re tweeted to promote NSM2021 3 simple messages.

1. Only use a pea-sized amount of toothpaste, it's all your teeth need, and it avoids too much mess.
2. Don't press your toothbrush flatly against your teeth, ideally you should brush towards your gum line at a 45 degree angle for the best clean.
3. Spit don't rinse!

A big THANK YOU to everyone who took part, some of our fabulous brushers are in the pictures below:

Grace, Callum and Cameron brushing their teeth before heading out for a busy day at school & Nursery....terrific toothbrushers!



Night time brushers Poppy and Maisie, Never forget to brush before bed.

1. Only use a pea-sized amount of toothpaste, it's all your teeth need, and it avoids too much mess.
2. Don't press your toothbrush flatly against your teeth, ideally you should brush towards your gum line at a 45 degree angle for the best clean.
3. Spit don't rinse

Sharing smiles

Sharing a smile can be such a powerful thing to do. It can be a sign of friendship, trust, togetherness and love and it is also a sign of good oral health and wellbeing.

That's why, during National Smile Month we invited all schools and care homes to nominate a smile. This person could have been anyone from their community either a group or individual that makes them smile.

Please see some entries below – I'm sure you agree with us they all deserve a prize!!!

Riverbank Schools – Finlay Dysart



Westerfield Care Home - Paisley

Catherine Easedale

Catherine is one of our happiest service users, she loves to socialise with all the residents in the home, and she has many special friends, she gets along well with everyone. Catherine has a natural radiance, she is kind, friendly and charming and cheers us up with her smile every day.



Westerton Care Home East Dunbartonshire

Alan Graham

Alan has all his own teeth which he takes great care of and proud of them. Alan has the best smile he cheers everyone up with his jokes and happiness that he share with staff and residents his smile lights up a room this 71 year old is an inspiration to everyone



iMatter

iMatter is the NHS Scotland Staff Engagement model for supporting continuous improvement in staff experience and employee engagement.

Taking all our experiences over the last 15 months into account, it is especially important this year that everyone takes time out to share their feedback and experiences through iMatter. Information from the survey will be used to shape and influence positive change across NHS GG&C, the Oral Health Directorate and your team.

All team leads have now confirmed their teams online. On Monday 9th August, the Questionnaire Period will go live. We all have a time frame of 3 weeks within which to complete the survey. Have your say and share your views with us by completing the survey. We will keep you up to date with more information and details over the weeks to come.

The feedback you share is completely anonymous and will be treated in strictest confidence. It is important that you share a view on how things 'really are for you' so that we can continue to build on strengths highlighted and identify areas for continuous improvement.

If you have any questions about iMatter please speak to your line manager or contact:

Linda.Tindall@ggc.scot.nhs.uk or Julie.Fleming4@ggc.scot.nhs.uk

Key dates for Oral Health Directorate are as follows:

- Questionnaire Period: **09/08/2021 – 30/08/2021**
- Action Planning: **13/09/2021 – 06/12/2021**



Why iMatter? Because YOUR VOICE Matters!

Request for News Stories

Do you have a great patient story to tell or a service innovation you think we should be shouting about?

Has a member of staff gone beyond the call of duty to deliver care?

Are you launching a new service/initiative or has a service reached a significant milestone?

If so, we want to hear from you!

We want you to help us spread the word about your achievements, so if you have a story you think you want to share, just drop us an email and tell us about it. Please include a few details about your idea:

Who you are

(Your job, where you work, your contact details, the best time to get you)

A brief summary of the story

(What it's about, who's involved, the impact it's had on patients or the service you provide – that kind of thing)

Timings

(Is it urgent? Are there any key dates we should be aware of?)

Other information

(Anything else you think we should know about – for instance, is there a partnership with a university or other outside organisation? Is a patient happy to be featured as a case study?)

All information should be emailed to Julie.Fleming4@ggc.scot.nhs.uk

COVID Vaccination Programme

The COVID Vaccination Programme is well underway. As at 5th August 2021, the uptake for vaccinations in Scotland was as follows:

Scotland	Newly reported	Total	Total (18+ years)	% coverage (18+ years)
First dose	2,185	4,018,503	3,989,816	89.9
Second dose	19,353	3,268,887	3,257,453	73.4

The "newly reported" figure is the new number of reported vaccinations since the dashboard was last updated. These figures may include some new historic data due to delays in the data being received. Overall percentage uptake is based on the target population aged 18+ years. The newly reported and total number vaccinated include a small number of under 18 year olds who are in specific priority groups.

NHS Digital Passport

There have been reports of fake NHS email and text messages requesting that you can apply for a coronavirus 'Digital Passport', allowing you to prove your vaccination status and travel safely without the need for self-isolation. This email takes you to a convincing looking but fake NHS website and asks for your personal and payment details for a small 'admin fee'.

This phishing email was reported via the National Cyber Security Centre's (NCSC) Suspicious Email Reporting Service and they were able to take the scam website down after just 27 minutes from the time of reporting to them.

However, these emails will likely reappear so please continue to report any suspicious emails to spam@ggc.scot.nhs.uk.

You can manage your vaccination appointments and receive a confirmation of your vaccination status on the [NHS Inform Scotland](#) website. You can request a printed [copy of your vaccination status online](#) or by calling the COVID-19 Status Helpline on 0808 196 8656. You will never be asked to pay to receive a copy of your vaccination status.

If you have taken a COVID-19 test at some point, you may receive a text inviting you take part in a study into the long term effects of COVID-19. This study is in association with Public Health Scotland, NHS Scotland, Scottish Government and the University of Glasgow. You can read more about this study and how your information will be used on the [COVID In Scotland Study](#) website.

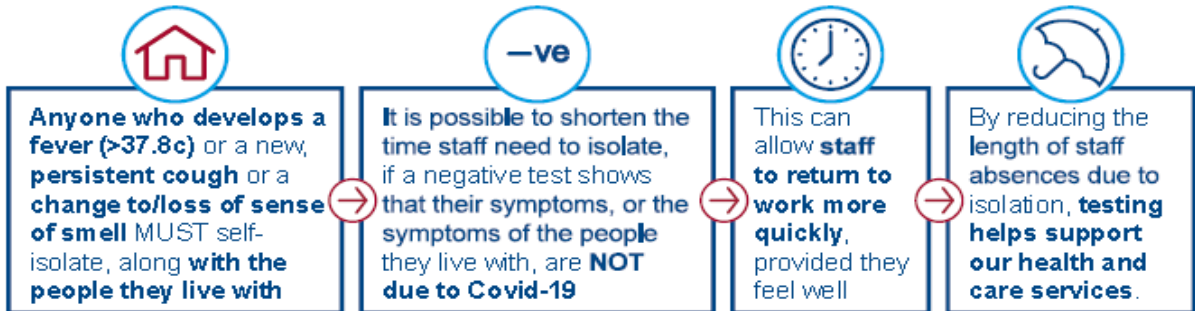
International Travel and Quarantine Arrangements

NHSGGC have updated [Staff FAQs](#) with updated information in relation to international travel and quarantine arrangements. Whilst the Scottish Government is still advising against international travel, there are different arrangements depending on where you may be travelling to. If you do intend to travel please discuss arrangements with your Line Manager.

If you have any questions or require guidance on anything mentioned above, please do not hesitate to contact the team by email at hr.support@ggc.scot.nhs.uk.

Staff Testing

Why test?



Who is tested through this service?



When is testing done?



In the first 5 days following the start of the illness as this is when the test is most accurate.

Staff and their household contacts can refer for testing using the following [e-referral form](#).

[Information for staff who have been tested can be found here.](#)

Lateral Flow Testing

Lateral flow testing is important – using the testing kits regularly will help identify those who have COVID-19 but do not have any symptoms, helping to keep our staff, patients and the wider community safe. The opportunity to access this voluntary, twice weekly testing is now available to all NHSGGC staff who are working from our facilities (in both patient facing and non-patient facing roles). For access to kits or replacement kits, please speak to your line manager.

Lateral Flow Tests - Available to all staff working on site

Speak to your line manager about where to collect your test kit, then:



Register
your kit



Test
twice per week



Record
your results

Keep your colleagues and patients safe from COVID-19

Help stop the spread!

Mental Health Check In

The third NHSGGC staff Mental Health Check In launched on Saturday 31 July and will run for a four week period, until Friday 27 August inclusive.

The Check In is designed to identify any wellbeing issues and enable staff to receive the support from our Occupational Health Psychological Therapies team.

All staff are being asked to complete the online questionnaire, even if you filled it in previously and even if you currently feel well. Sometimes people may be experiencing or about to experience mental well-being issues unexpectedly and early intervention may help to resolve any potential or emerging worries or anxieties before they become more difficult to work through.

Every questionnaire will be reviewed by our team of Clinical Psychologists and if needed, one of them will contact you to offer appropriate advice and/or refer you for treatment.

Of the staff who participated in the previous Mental Health Check In earlier this year, 42% were identified as needing some support resulting in 710 staff receiving a call from a Clinical Psychologist.

Taking part is voluntary and the service is totally confidential. No information will be given to your manager.

More information is available on the [Mental Health Check In website](#) where you will also find a FAQ page.

It's OK

not to feel OK

Mental Health
Check In



Take care of yourself by taking the time to complete the confidential **Mental Health Check In questionnaire**.

The survey will be open from **Saturday 31st July** until **Friday 27th August**.

To complete the survey, visit: www.nhsggc.org.uk/mhcsurvey

Ask Tell Awareness Sessions



Why are these awareness sessions being provided?

To enable you to start an initial conversation around, and raise basic awareness of mental health, self-harm and suicide prevention.



Ask Tell – Look After Your Mental Health



Ask Tell – Have a Healthy Conversation



Ask Tell – Save A Life

How do I apply?

Please select your choice of date from the sessions below, follow the link and complete the booking form as soon as possible. Once you have been allocated a place, full joining instructions and further information will be confirmed.

Please note you must have received direct written confirmation of your place before attending the session.

Where and when are the awareness sessions taking place?

These will take place via MS Teams and attendees will be sent more information prior to the session. To book onto a session, please click on the appropriate link below.

August		Booking Link
Tuesday 24 th	10 am – 12 pm	CLICK HERE

September		Booking Link
Wednesday 15 th	2 pm – 4 pm	CLICK HERE
Thursday 30 th	10 am – 12 pm	CLICK HERE

October		Booking Link
Tuesday 5 th	2 pm – 4 pm	CLICK HERE
Wednesday 20 th	10 am – 12 pm	CLICK HERE

November		Booking Link
Thursday 4 th	2 pm – 4 pm	CLICK HERE
Tuesday 16 th	10 am – 12 pm	CLICK HERE

December		Booking Link
Wednesday 1 st	2 pm – 4 pm	CLICK HERE
Thursday 16 th	10 am – 12 pm	CLICK HERE

Regional Services Staff Awards for Excellence 2021

1. Nominations are invited from staff to identify a colleague or team in Regional Services that think they would qualify in one of the following categories:
 - Regional Services Team of the Year
 - Regional Services Employee of the Year
 - Regional Services Leader of the Year
 - Regional Services Innovation of the Year
 - Regional Services Volunteer of the Year

Please see additional guidance below on these categories.

2. The closing date for nominations is the **27th August**. Completed forms should be sent to joyce.bowes@ggc.scot.nhs.uk using the attached form. Enquiries should be made to Fiona.Paterson4@ggc.scot.nhs.uk
3. The Staff Awards are open to all members of staff in NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde including HSCPs who may be local authority employees.
4. A meeting of the Regional Services Senior Management Team will be held to consider all the nominations and decide the winners.
5. A special Regional Services Staff Awards Celebration Event will take place in October, date to be advised (online or face to face depending on Covid regulations at that time and the availability of a venue) and presentations made to commended nominations and winners in each category.
6. All our Category Winners will be invited to attend the **NHSGGC Celebrating Success Event** taking place on the evening of **29th November** in the Radisson Blu Hotel, (again, Covid restrictions allowing) where the overall winners in each Directorate and HSCP will be announced.

Information detailing how to submit nominations has been circulated within local teams.