

Tuesday 20 June 2023

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**Industrial action update** The short life working group considering the impact of planned industrial action by junior doctor members of BMA Scotland met this afternoon. Among the items discussed were rates of pay for those medical colleagues who may be asked to work differently during industrial action. **We expect national guidance on these rates within the next 24 hours; please do not take any action until this is received.**

As a reminder, BMA Scotland has given notice of industrial action by junior doctor members, beginning at 7am on Wednesday 12 July and running until 6.59am on Saturday 15 July.

**eESS support action plan** As promised in the latest eESS newsletter, a plan has been devised to support local eESS users. eESS (electronic Employee Support System) is the national workforce system available across NHS Grampian. Managers can access their employee's data online and get up to date information, as well as complete transactions which will then feed straight through to payroll.

The support action plan will help you, as a manager, fully utilise the system whilst understanding the process around making transaction changes and why your role and responsibilities in managing employee data is so important. There are 2 ways in which we would encourage you to seek support and help. These are designed to help you discuss and address ESS support issues and your chance to ask questions on the system too.

- [1:1 support and facilitation via Teams](#)
- [In-person drop-in sessions](#)

Both can be [booked](#) so you can get time dedicated to help you. Please remember to say what you are booking and provide the details requested – see links above. There is training available to you, [eESS for managers & proxies | Turas | Learn \(nhs.scot\)](#) and we encourage you to review the training and the available SOPs.

We are changing the current service provision; the priority being improving the existing support and we appreciate any feedback that you may have on how we can improve our services.

**New board member appointed** Hussein Patwa has been appointed as a member of the Grampian NHS board. Hussein lives in Aberdeen and is co-chair of the Aberdeen City Council Disability Equity Partnership. He brings to the board rich and varied experience of inequality, disadvantage, use of NHS services and strategic focus because of lifelong visual impairment and chronic health conditions. Hussein's appointment will begin on 1 July and run for 4 years. More information about the make-up of the Grampian NHS board and its activities is available here: [Grampian NHS Board \(nhsgrampian.org\)](#)

**Chief Medical Officer's annual report** Professor Sir Gregor Smith has published his annual report, entitled 'Realistic Medicine: Doing the Right Thing'. The report reflects on the challenges our system is facing and asks professionals to practise Realistic Medicine, to deliver Value Based Health & Care and a more sustainable system. Gregor says:

"I very much hope that you will recognise the challenges I describe in this report and agree that no matter where you work in our health and care system, we must focus on doing the right thing. By doing the right thing, we can move away from what often feels like industrial care performed by transactional technicians. By nurturing trust and belonging within our health and social care services we can re-connect to our purpose and deliver the careful and kind care that will create the fairer more sustainable system that we all wish to see." The CMO annual report is available to read here: [Chief Medical Officer for Scotland - Annual Report 2022–2023 \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

**New RACH website** Work has been ongoing on the development of a dedicated RACH website, and it is almost ready to launch. This is the final call for content; we are not looking for lots of information from your department currently, even just a couple of sentences about your area and main contact details. More information can then be added later. If you would like anything to be included on the website, please email it to [gram.rachwebsite@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.rachwebsite@nhs.scot) by Tuesday 27 June.

**Stay Well Stay Connected - Granite City Gathering** This event takes place **this** Saturday (24 June) from 10am – 4pm at Kings Church, Bridge of Don AB23 8BL. If you have service users/patients/clients on a waiting list for non-medical support, living in Aberdeen, and about to retire or are retired, this event is for them. [More information is available via this link.](#) You can [book a place directly using this form](#), or by contacting [carol.jack3@nhs.scot](mailto:carol.jack3@nhs.scot), or calling 01224 045624

**Tune of the day** I love this feature for many reasons, one of which is hearing about what you all get up to away from work. Today is a classic example; our tune is going out to Morven McGregor in the physiotherapy team at Fraserburgh as she heads out to Hungary in a few days to take part in the Kettlebell Sport World Championships. Thanks to Nadine Hay for the request, she asked for anything by Gerry Cinnamon; I've picked [Kampfire Vampire](#) (EP)

If you want to request a tune, follow up on items included in this brief, or suggest an item for sharing, drop us an email via [gram.communications@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.communications@nhs.scot)