

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the fifth edition of the National Treatment Centre – Grampian (NTC-G) newsletter. In this issue we have updates on Dr Gray’s MRI, Regional Working and visit to NTC – Highland, the Radiology MRI Storyboard and the NTC-G Transport Strategy.

PROJECT UPDATE

We continue to work with the Scottish Government to obtain funding certainty for the project. The teams have made significant progress in developing a plan for the MRI at Dr Gray’s Hospital and we are currently finalising the costs for the project and the short term relocation of Mental Health Services.

DR GRAY’S MRI UPDATE

Plans for the new MRI at Dr Gray’s Hospital are continuing with detailed planning work to make construction possible.

Since our last update, the Integrated Programme Board has agreed on the location for a suitable temporary solution for the delivery of mental health services while the MRI construction work takes place, as well as the refurbishment of Ward 4. More detailed plans are now being developed to support the move, which will then be taken to the NHS Grampian Board for approval.

Day in the Life

Meanwhile, a successful series of ‘Day in the Life’ sessions were held in Ward 4 on 20 June 2023. The sessions were led by the Architect for the project, Bruce Ballance, and were well attended by clinical, technical and third sector representatives.

The main aim of the day was to get as much information on what happens over the course of a 24 hour period in Ward 4. This was certainly achieved and it gave the Architects, Construction and Project Teams very useful information that will inform the design of the refurbished Ward 4. There were positive views from those who attended, for example, this was an excellent way to communicate, ask questions and support the process.

If you have any questions relating to the MRI Construction and Ward 4 Ligature Reduction project, please send them to gram.dghMRIw4@nhs.scot.

REGIONAL WORKING

Update from Donna Smith, Programme Lead NTC-Grampian

Teams from National Treatment Centre – Highland (NTC-H) and NHS Grampian have been working in a multi-disciplinary way to ensure that the 434 patients from Grampian who are planned to receive hip and knee replacement operations at NTC-H receive safe care in a patient-focused manner during 2023/24.

The multi-disciplinary team agreed a number of new business processes including:

- Agreeing the clinical criteria for joint patients that could be safely managed in the NTC-H
- Agreeing a new referral route for NHS Grampian patients to appear on the NTC-H waiting list to allow for the Consenting Clinic to take place prior to surgery
- Dr Gray's Hospital staff to ensure that patients were pre-operatively assessed and had an x-ray taken in the 6 months prior to their assessment
- Mr McNair and Mr Cousins consenting clinics at Dr Gray's Hospital – involving the booking teams from both NHS Highland and NHS Grampian, to keep the journey time down for patients

There are so many people that we have to thank for making the patient journey a success including our clinical teams, our administrative teams, our eHealth colleagues, our planning and analytical colleagues and the management teams of both Health Boards.

The first patient from NHS Grampian, who received his operation on 27th April 2023, described the whole experience as being “spot on – everything from the consenting process, to the food”. He was discharged the day after his procedure and was delighted with the care and that he had his procedure after such a long wait. To the end of June, 97 patients have been seen at the Consenting Clinic and 56 patients have already had their surgery at the National Treatment Centre - Highland.

A lessons learnt workshop was held in May 2023 between the two Health Boards to ensure that we continue to improve the business processes and work together to provide reduced waiting times for patients who require hip/knee replacement. This has been an excellent project to work on as it shows how collaboration between our two Boards can improve the care offered to our patients.

Given the success of the Orthopaedic Patient Journey work, we are now moving on to offering Cataract Surgery for NHS Grampian patients at the NTC-Highland from September 2023. A similar multi-disciplinary, collaborative approach will be followed.

NHS Grampian visit to NTC-Highland

On 27 April 2023, some of the NTC-G Project Team travelled to Inverness to visit the newly opened NTC-Highland.

The feedback from those who visited was positive, both in terms of allowing an opportunity to see the design and workings of the building, and to learn from the experiences of the NTC-H team.

The thoughts of the Grampian team were summed up by their description of the building as a “person-centered surgical sanctuary”. Further visits to the NTC-H are planned, including the Theatres Team who are planning a day visit, to allow the NTC-G team to learn more from the lessons learned in Highland.

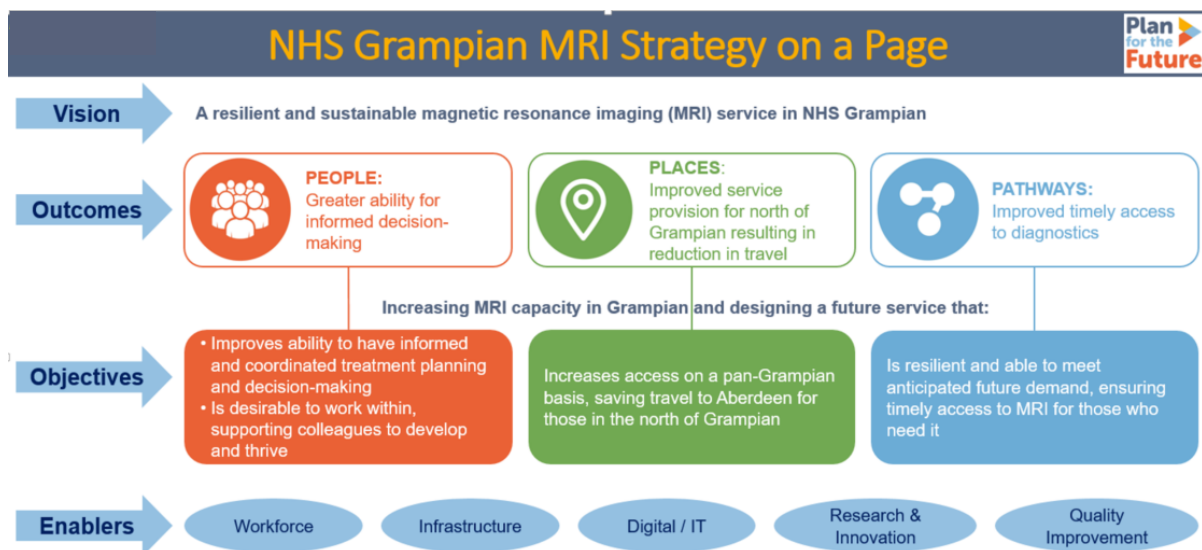


Photo: NTC-Highland / Sharon Falconer, NHS Grampian

SERVICE REDESIGN – A STORYBOARD APPROACH RADIOLOGY - MRI

In the last Newsletter, some detail was provided on the storyboard approach being developed for each of the six specialties identified for the NTC-G, building on lessons learned from the NTC - Highland. Work has progressed in a number of the speciality areas, below is an update on the progress with the Radiology - MRI storyboard:

Fundamental principles in the NHS Grampian Plan for the Future 2022-2028 recognises that sustainable health and care is constructed around People, Places and Pathways.



- MRI has been explored in detail, providing substance around the service, current facilities, highest referring specialties, patient pathways.
- The Radiology department is:
 - multi-disciplinary - staffing includes Radiologists, Radiographers, Nursing, Healthcare Scientists, Healthcare support workers and Support staff
 - multi-modality - includes x-ray, ultrasound, CT, MRI, Interventional Radiology, PET CT, Fluoroscopy, Cardiac catheterisation, barium studies
- Further development of all aspects of the MRI service under the headings below is being progressed.

Infrastructure Fit for purpose facilities, Regional opportunities	Performance / Access / Targets – Capacity and Demand	Technology, e Health, IT and Reporting Systems	Workforce Recruitment and Retention, Health and Wellbeing, Training and staff development	Clinical Governance, Service user satisfaction and socio economic	Finance Service priorities, immediate, 5yr and 10yr long term
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Those involved in the development of the storyboard have said:
 “The storyboard shows the complexity of the MRI service and the requirement for investment. The investment will provide additional infrastructure, improve patient pathways and increase access to MRI which in turn will allow timely diagnosis/treatment for our Grampian patients”.

TRANSPORT AND ACCESS

A short-life working group has been set up to begin working on a Travel Strategy for the NTC-G. This will involve reviewing current travel and access options for the services planned to be in the NTC-G, and ensuring that the project strategy fits with the plans for the Foresterhill site, and the wider Grampian area.

As part of this work the group are planning to gather data about how patients and staff currently access the services, and consider existing and future parking and access opportunities. This information will help to inform the strategy.

Further updates will be provided as this work progresses.

KEEP IN TOUCH

Further newsletters will be issued to keep you up-to-date with the progress of all aspects of the project. You can also visit the NHS Grampian website - [National Treatment Centre – Grampian \(nhsgrampian.org\)](http://www.nhsgrampian.org)

If you have any questions about the NTC-G project or you’d like to be added to our distribution list, please email gram.ntc@nhs.scot.