

14 Maternity Collaborative

Moray Maternity Services

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Director of Midwifery

A Message from Katie Colville

Welcome to the latest edition of the Moray Maternity Collaborative newsletter.

This edition highlights the progress being made across maternity, neonatal and paediatric services in Moray, with a strong focus on workforce development, recruitment and improving care for local families.

Inside, you'll read about the development of the Special Care Unit at Dr Gray's Hospital, where investment in training, staffing and equipment is helping strengthen neonatal care in Moray. We also share the latest recruitment update, including encouraging progress

across Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Anaesthetics and Paediatrics, alongside continued national and international interest in working in Moray.

You'll also find updates on plans for the new maternity advice and assessment telephone line, designed to make it clearer and easier for families across Grampian to know who to contact when support is needed.

Alongside service developments, this edition celebrates the people at the heart of our services, including recognition for Ian Darcy following his MSc success and Daisy nomination, as well as the inspiring fundraising efforts of Roshine and Connor in memory of their daughter, Daisy.

As always, thank you for your continued support, feedback and interest in the work taking place across Moray. Every conversation and contribution helps shape the future of local maternity services.



Strengthening Neonatal Care in Moray

Work is underway to restore and develop the Special Care Unit (SCU) at Dr Gray's Hospital, with investment in staff training, recruitment and equipment helping strengthen neonatal care in Moray.

Over recent months, teams across maternity and neonatal services have been refining skills and expanding local capability to support the future development of the service. A phased late summer/ autumn opening of the unit is hoped for later this year.

Several members of the workforce are currently undertaking specialist neonatal care training at Aberdeen Maternity Hospital and are due to return to Dr Gray's Hospital later this year. Plans are also in place to support additional staff to begin neonatal training from September, alongside further opportunities for

healthcare support workers and Advanced Paediatric Nurse Practitioner trainees.

Recruitment has also progressed, with two specialty doctors appointed to support the service, including one already in post.

Alongside workforce development, refurbishment work, equipment planning and point-of-care testing preparations are also underway.

Morag Turnbull, Moray Maternity Collaborative Clinical Lead for Paediatrics, leading on the SCU project, said: "This is a significant piece of work involving teams across maternity, neonatal and paediatric services. Our focus remains on building a safe, sustainable service for families in Moray, supported by the right training, staffing and infrastructure."



Recruitment Campaign Progress Update

Recruitment across maternity and children's services at Dr Gray's Hospital has seen encouraging progress in several key areas.

As part of the Wish You Worked Here campaign, NHS Grampian attended anaesthetic conferences in Brighton and Liverpool earlier this year, helping showcase opportunities within Moray to clinicians from across the UK and beyond.

A major milestone has been reached in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, where four Specialty Doctors have now accepted posts following a recent recruitment round. The successful applicants were described as high calibre candidates, which has been an encouraging development for the future of the service.

Work is now underway to support the new doctors through onboarding, with start dates expected later this summer.

Louise Pearson, Unit Operational Manager for Women and Children's Services, said: "We've been encouraged by the quality of applicants and the strong interest in working in Moray. Every appointment helps strengthen the team and our long-term goal of delivering safe, sustainable maternity care closer to home."

Applicants highlighted the opportunity to help shape services in Moray, work within close-knit multidisciplinary teams and enjoy the quality of life the area offers.

Further recruitment activity is also underway across consultant roles in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, with targeted international advertising across India and Gulf States to help attract experienced clinicians to Moray. While some specialist roles remain challenging to recruit to nationally, the recent response to recruitment activity has been encouraging.

The latest Wish You Worked Here campaign reached more than 1.5 million people, with campaign videos viewed more than 2.2 million times and more than 29,000 visits to careers content generated through the campaign.

Elsewhere, progress continues across anaesthetics, paediatrics and theatre services, with additional staff expected to start soon and further recruitment campaigns planned later this year. Continuing to recruit the right people into the right roles will play an important part in how services continue to develop across Moray. The Advanced Paediatric Nurse Practitioner team has also welcomed another recruitment success, meaning the team is now fully staffed.

These appointments form part of the wider work to strengthen multidisciplinary teams and support the future development of consultant-led maternity and paediatric services in Moray.



1.5 million
people reached



29,000+ visits to
careers content



2.2 million
video views



**4 Obstetrics and
Gynaecology Specialty
Doctors appointed**



Featured in specialist
medical platforms
including BMJ



International
recruitment expanded
across India and
Gulf States

Why recruitment matters:

- Safer care for mums and babies.
- Helps reduce travel for treatment.
- Strengthens specialist local services.
- Supports future consultant-led care.
- Builds teams across maternity and paediatrics.



Community Voices at the Heart of Our Work

New Maternity Advice Line to Support Families Across Grampian

Work is continuing on a new maternity advice and assessment telephone line designed to make it clearer and easier for families across Grampian to know who to call if something changes suddenly during pregnancy or after birth.

This will introduce a single, Grampian-wide point of contact for urgent maternity concerns, helping women and families get the right advice, from the right person, at the right time. Importantly, the change will not replace community midwives or local maternity services, and families will still receive face-to-face care whenever it is needed.

Alongside the new phone line, staff across maternity services have been involved in engagement sessions to help shape how the service will work in practice and ensure it meets the needs of local families and teams. Rachael Shewan, Clinical Lead for the Maternity Triage Project, said: "This work is about giving families clarity and reassurance at what can often be a worrying moment. We want people to know who to contact, feel listened to, and feel confident they will get the support they need quickly and safely."

The telephone line is expected to launch later this year.

Listening, Learning and Connecting Across Moray

Community engagement work continues across Moray, as we hear directly from women, their families, and local groups about what matters most to them when it comes to maternity care.

In March, we joined a Positive Pregnancy Walk in Findhorn, led by a local doula. The event created space for open conversations, shared experiences and connections in a relaxed community setting.

The Grampian Maternity Voices Partnership (MVP) plays an important role in making sure the voices of service users, NHS staff, partner organisations and charities shape how maternity services develop across Grampian. The MVP is led by lived experience volunteers and welcomes anyone with an interest in improving maternity care across the region. More information can be found here www.birthingrampian.scot.nhs.uk/mvp/ or email aberdeenandshiremvp@gmail.com

Every conversation helps us better understand the experiences of local families and ensures community voices remain at the heart of the work ahead.



Supporting SANDS Moray in memory of Daisy

Roshine and Connor recently returned to Dr Gray's Hospital to present an incredible £7,700 donation to Sands Moray after completing the Sands 100k Challenge in memory of their beautiful baby daughter, Daisy, who sadly died in January.

The couple took on the walking challenge throughout March and shared how the time spent walking together gave them space to talk openly and reflect with one another through their grief.

During their visit to the Forget Me Not Suite, Roshine and Connor also met with the midwives who cared for them during Daisy's birth and the difficult days that followed. They spoke personally about the compassion, sensitivity and exceptional care they received during such a profoundly difficult time.

Their strength, openness and commitment to supporting other families experiencing baby loss has been deeply moving and inspiring for everyone involved.

The funds raised will go to the local Sands Moray branch and help continue vital support for bereaved families across the area.

Pictured alongside Roshine and Connor are members of the maternity team and Sands volunteers who helped them throughout their journey.



Celebrating Success: Ian Darcy Achieves MSc with Distinction

Congratulations to Ian Darcy, Advanced Nurse Practitioner in Medical Paediatrics, who has recently completed his MSc in Advanced Clinical Practice with outstanding results.

Ian achieved a Distinction for his dissertation and performed exceptionally well during his viva at Robert Gordon University, receiving confirmation of his final overall grade last week.

Completing the MSc is a significant professional achievement and will strengthen patient care, safety, and paediatric services across Moray, with added values as the new Special Care Unit prepares to open later this year.

Reflecting on the milestone, Ian said he was "pleased that my research was well received" and is looking forward to putting his learning into practice to continue supporting patients, families and colleagues.

Alongside his academic success, Ian has also recently received a Daisy nomination in recognition of the outstanding care he provides - a further reflection of his dedication and compassion in his role.

Congratulations, Ian, on these well-deserved achievements.

Thank you for the feedback on the newsletters so far. 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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