



# Welcome to the NHS Fife Annual Review 2023–2024

Ms Jenni Minto  
Minister for Public Health &  
Women's Health



Scottish Government  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba  
gov.scot





# Annual Review 2023–2024

Living Well, Working Well  
and Flourishing in Fife

Ms Patricia Kilpatrick  
Chair, NHS Fife

nhsfife.org



# Key Achievements 2023/24

Partnership  
agreement with  
University of St  
Andrews

Partnership  
agreement with  
Fife College

International  
Recruitment

Queen Margaret  
Hospital theatre  
expansion

Patient Hub

Care opinion

In house BSL  
interpreter

Apprenticeships  
in Podiatry

Surgical Services  
Accreditation

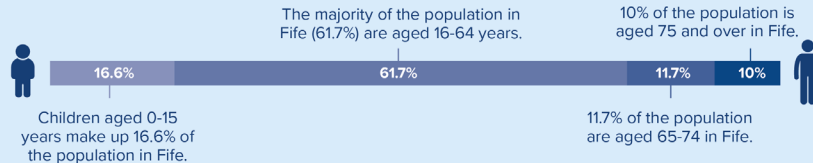
Scottish Health  
Awards 2023  
winners

# Context

In 2023

# 371,340

people live in Fife



# Activity

**2,763**

babies delivered



**88,911**

attendances at A&E  
or Minor Injuries



**317,979**

outpatient  
appointments



**15 m**

lab tests completed



**223,614**

COVID and Flu  
vaccinations  
delivered



**36,700**

inpatient stays



(Mar-24)

**10,233**

staff



**13,473**

planned  
(completed)  
operations



**225,622 patients**

had **250,730**

scans and x-rays



# Urgent and Unscheduled Care

## 4-hour emergency access

95% of patients will wait less than 4 hours from arrival to admission, discharge or transfer

Scotland **68.3%**

NHS Fife **74.1%** **+5.8%**



## What are we doing:

- Integrating urgent and unscheduled care pathways
- Redesigning clinical spaces to offer more capacity
- Professional to professional discussion to ensure that care is delivered in the right place
- Workforce – upskilling and skill mix
- Care closer to home
- Care home pathways
- Outpatient IV antibiotics
- Development of Same Day Emergency Care
- Working closely with partners – SAS, HSCP

# Planned Care

## Outpatient Waiting Times

95% of patients to wait no longer than 12 weeks from referral to first appointment

Scotland	<b>42.8%</b>	
NHS Fife	<b>40.0%</b>	<b>-2.8%</b>



## Inpatient / Day Case Waiting Times

All patients should be treated within 12 weeks of decision to treat

Scotland	<b>56.9%</b>	
NHS Fife	<b>47.7%</b>	<b>-9.2%</b>

## What are we doing:

- Prioritising longest waiting patients
- Opened local procedure room at QMH
- Vetting referrals
- Validating waiting lists
- Digital expansion – Patient Hub
- Supporting patients to Wait Well
- Additional clinics and theatre sessions
- Improving pre-assessment pathways
- Optimising theatre use
- Robotic Assisted Surgery
- National Treatment Centre

# Diagnostics

## Diagnostic waiting times

Patients will wait no longer than 6 weeks to receive one of the 8 key diagnostic tests

Scotland **52.7%**

NHS Fife **51.2%** **-1.5%**



### What are we doing:

- Vetting requests
- Prioritising urgent and urgent suspicion of cancer requests
- Additional capacity to support more diagnostic tests (CT, MRI and Ultrasound)
- Use of mobile scanners
- Testing artificial intelligence to support imaging results



# Cancer

## Cancer 31-day decision to treat

95% of patients will wait no more than 31 days from decision to treat to first cancer treatment

Scotland	<b>94.6%</b>	
NHS Fife	<b>94.4%</b>	<b>-0.2%</b>

## Cancer 62-day decision to treat

95% of patients referred urgently with a suspicion of cancer to begin treatment within 62 days of referral

Scotland	<b>71.8%</b>	
NHS Fife	<b>74.3%</b>	<b>+2.5%</b>



## What are we doing:

- Rapid Cancer Diagnostic Service
- Single point of contact hub
- Patient navigators
- CRUK Nurse Led Prostate Pathways
- Additional theatre sessions
- Prioritising Urgent Suspicion of Cancer

# Mental Health

## Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMHS)

90% of young people will commence treatment for CAMH services within 18 weeks of referral

Scotland	<b>79.4%</b>	
NHS Fife	<b>70.3%</b>	<b>-9.1%</b>

## Psychological therapies

90% of patients will commence Psychological Therapy based treatment within 18 weeks of referral

Scotland	<b>79.5%</b>	
NHS Fife	<b>69.7%</b>	<b>-9.8%</b>



## What are we doing?

### CAMHS

- Early intervention service
- Urgent response team
- Workforce investment
- Partnership with education
- Appointment management system

### Psychological therapies

- Expansion of online support / self help
- Clinical assessment to access alternative support
- Workforce investment
- Training wider Mental Health team



# Workforce



## Staff Absence Rates

Scotland	6.21%	
NHS Fife	6.59%	<b>+0.38%</b>

Vacancies	M&D	N&W	AHP
Scotland	6.9%	4.8%	4.5%
NHS Fife	6.2% ✓	3.8% ✓	3.7% ✓

## Staff Personal Development Plans

NHS Fife 40.9 % (target 60%)

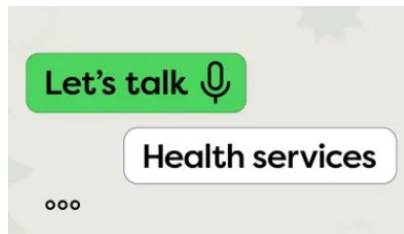
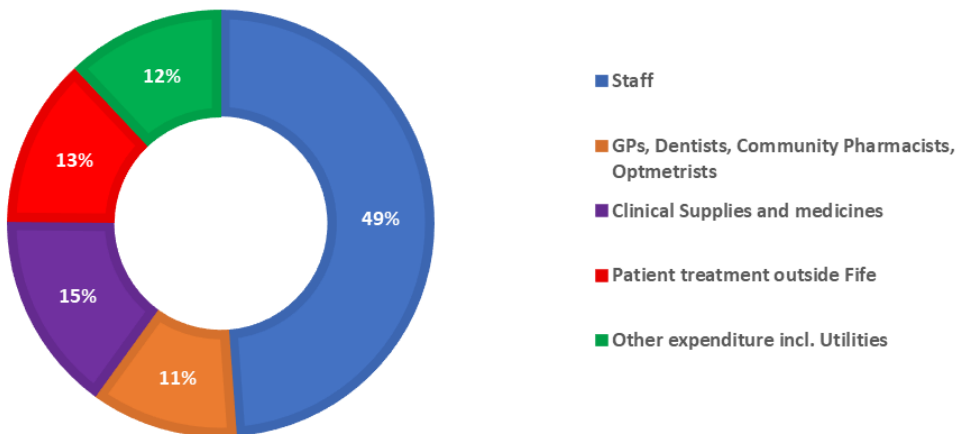


## What are we doing?

- Health & Wellbeing Framework
- Assistant Practitioner roles
- eRostering
- Leadership development
- Culture
- Speak up week
- Employability initiatives

# Financial Resources

NHS FIFE SPENT £1BN DELIVERING SERVICES IN 2023/24

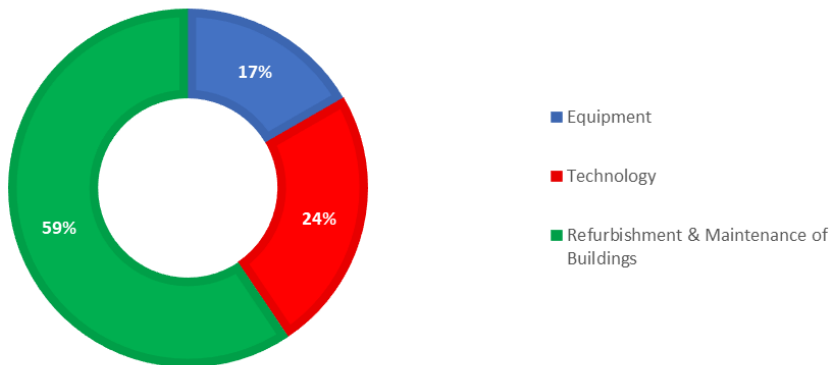


## Key issues

- High supplementary staffing costs and inflationary pressures
- Financial support (brokerage) required from Scottish Government
- Unprecedented levels of efficiency savings required
- Re-form, transform, perform framework developed
- Transformation of services needed to enable longer term sustainability

# Capital Investment

£111M SPENT ON IMPROVING OUR INFRASTRUCTURE IN  
2023/24



## Key highlights

- Actions to improve and maintain our clinical service buildings
- New equipment and improved technology and digital solutions to support service delivery

## Key challenges

- Ageing estate
- Constraints on capital funding



# Jenni Minto MSP

Minister for Public Health & Women's Health

## Questions

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# Q&A session

“What is being done to reduce wait times? Two years to see specialist staff, with symptoms impacting daily life, is not acceptable.”

N, Rosyth

“What is the plan in Lochgelly with concerns to NHS dentists and Doctors. Currently both are full and not taking in new patients. A new development is in planning and likely to bring an extra 300 plus houses and possibly 1000 plus people to the area. Where are these people going?”

J, Glenrothes

“What is your plan to introduce more NHS Dentists in Dunfermline. My dental practice is going private, and I am now facing going private. On a pension it is an unaffordable monthly charge and exorbitant charges for work to be done. The only Practice taking NHS patients is in St Andrews.”

A, Dunfermline

“Will QMH get an A&E. The size of the City and the new housing seem to support this. There are waits for ambulances to VHK. Staff are amazing but services are so stretched, which in turn must cause extra stress to staff doing their job and dealing with the public. Staff need to be respected and looked after.”

A, Dunfermline.

“Scotland's NHS Dental Access Crisis is due in no small part to a dentist recruitment crisis. All over the country practices can't find dentists. Meanwhile, overseas dentists are working in non-clinical roles and, if they're lucky training as dental nurses. This is a waste of assets, a blight on careers and an example of misrule. If Scottish Government offer overseas dentists, the right sort of help and a Scottish LDS to obtain GDC registration dentists would flock here and fund that help themselves. It needs political impetus and hard work which, Jenni Minto MSP the minister responsible. Will she commit to creating a route for overseas dentists to gain registration with a Scottish LDS.”

D, Edinburgh

# Q&A session

“When is Fife going to take active steps to set up a service for M.E. sufferers as provision previously was woefully inadequate and a Team, headed by a specialist consultant is needed plus training for GPs.? There is, frankly, no excuse for the apparent total lack of interest in this extremely vulnerable population. Can you explain why it has not been and is not prioritised?”

**S, Tayport**

“In the course of my time with ME services have declined to becoming non-existent. What plans do the NHS have to put the NICE guidelines in place and will the Delivery plan in England be applied to Scotland? We seem to have gone backwards since I was diagnosed.”

**H, Inverkeithing**

“What progress has been made on providing services for those with Myalgic Encephalomyelitis and long COVID following the death of the only nurse specialist in Scotland. Other chronic illnesses have specialist nurses and consultants but there is nothing in place to support those and their families who suffer from these illnesses.”

**L, Lochgelly**

# Q&A session

“What are NHS Fife going to do to create/improve access to assessment for adults (without a learning disability) for an autistic spectrum disorder, ADHD and other neurodevelopmental conditions?”

Currently, adults in Fife who suspect they are neurodivergent are having to spend £thousands on private assessment because their mental health hasn't deteriorated enough to warrant admission to hospital to be considered for assessment, yet poor enough to impact on their ability to work and participate in healthy activities . This is not in line with the vision of the Population Health and Wellbeing strategy to live well, work well and flourish.”

**G, Dunfermline**

“What are the strategies to reduce the waiting times for ASD assessment and the follow up management for children e.g., eating issues. Waiting times and protocols are archaic and need radically changed so children (and parents) can get the support desperately needed”

L, Glenrothes

# On behalf of the NHS Fife Board

## Thank You

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