

Approved Minutes

Balmullo Community Council – Monday 10th March 2025

Committee present: Colin Finlay (CF) Convener, Mike Fearon (MF), Cllr Louise Kennedy Dalby (LKD), Sheryl Morris (SM) Cllr Jonny Tepp (JT)

Public present: 8

Apologies: Cllr Alan Knox, Mike Ashburn, Andrew Donald, Sue Smith

Minutes: Mike Fearon

Summary of Action Points	ACTION
Report building damage to the relevant body and request to make area safe.	LKD/JT
Request additional access signage to the south side of the development.	LKD/JT
Review website analytics to identify any improvements.	SM

1. Minutes of previous meeting

- a. Corrections
There were no errors or omissions
- b. Actions arising

	ACTION	OUTCOME
Arrange temporary monitoring within the community – Breedon to install equipment at a local resident's house before the next blast date.	CF	Ongoing
Request an update on complaints process including contact details.	CF	Ongoing
Contact practice manager to query expanding car park size with spare land in the new development.	CF	Ongoing
Request/install a speeding sign on A914 exiting Balmullo towards Dairsie	LKD/JT	Ongoing
Request update from Openreach regarding schedule for full fibre to property	LKD/JT	Completed

2. Councillors Reports

- a) JT provided a detailed report covering several topics (*appendix 1*)
- b) LKD advised that the Openreach full-fibre install running behind original schedule of completion by 31/03/2025.
- c) LKD advised emergency roadworks in Tayport and diversions in place are expected to cause additional delays.
- d) LKD shared information received from Persimmon Homes inviting local artists to commission artwork for a new development in Coaltown of Wemyss. More info can be found [here](#) and proposals can be submitted on their [survey](#).

3. Treasurers Report

- a) Bank account migration still ongoing.

4. Incoming Correspondence

- a. SS provided details of the current planning applications within the community including (25/00359/FULL, 25/00336/FULL)
- b. SS has circulated all incoming correspondence with committee members which included
 - Newsletters
 - Leuchars community hall ATM replacement (26/03 – 29/03 inc.)
 - Police report (*appendix 2*)
 - NHS Fife update (*appendix 3*)

5. Updates

- a. Save Lucklawhill – The group has highlighted its achievements over the last 12-months by producing a detailed document to be shared digitally, with a physical copy being left in the community hall. They are still waiting on the planning application release and will actively assist community members in submitting planning objections once open. There was a report of storm damage to the building at the top of Lucklawhill, which is now a H&S concern. **[ACTION]**
- b. Balmullo Farm Development – work underway.
- c. Quarry – Continued reports indicate the siren's volume is insufficient.
- d. Planting – several barrels due for repair and planting soon to be underway. New compost is required in many.

6. AOB

- a. Cuplahills access road has no clear signage on approach into Balmullo which cause a concern for vehicle's approaching **[ACTION]**
- b. Google Street View camera-vehicle spotted in Balmullo today.
- c. Request to update sections on the website **[ACTION]**

7. Date of next meeting – Monday 14th April

Cllr Jonny Tepp & Cllr Allan Knox– Tay Bridgehead Focus Team Report & News

Matters Arising

The following matters arising from the last report

1. **Guardbridge roadworks – A91** – We continue to press Fife Council officers for reassurance that everything possible is being done to mitigate and ameliorate the impact of the A91 SPEN works. We have written to the CEO for reassurance. WE have sought reassurance from SPEN too and note that 'works are currently paused due to an unexpected situation' last week that the hope is to resume work this week. Walker & Webb are hosting a website on the SPEN works providing updates – see <https://www.walkerwatts.co.uk/spen-cupar>
2. **Police Report** – The February police report includes items on: Offroad dirt bike arrest; Anti-social behaviour patrols; Operation paramount 'Road safety'; Community speed watch; Policing powers in Scotland; CyberScotland Week; Drive wise 65+; cold callers; and calls received across Tay Bridgehead (35 calls to the police in Tayport 0 crimes)
3. **NHS Fife update** – The latest report includes updates on a number of issues including the following headings: the employment tribunal case; news coverage of midwifery student; proposals for reconfiguration of minor injuries in NEF; naloxone initiative re drugs deaths; Fife maternity services awarded baby friendly gold standard; NHS pioneering use of VR to manage chronic pain; patient hub enhancements; stroke services update; and sensory passport supporting young patients with autism
4. **SEPA are consulting on changes to the 'Environmental Regulations (Scotland)**. An overview and link to the consultation can be found here - <https://consultation.sepa.org.uk/governance/proposed-changes-to-the-environmental-regulation-s/>
5. **Save Lucklaw Community Action Group** – Following receipt of a February update from SLCAG which noted concern that Fife Council Biodiversity Officers had withdrawn from a presentation they made to the LNCS Steering Group we asked Fife Council's Biodiversity Officer to make contact with the group to set out any limitations placed on council officers in this regard
6. **Battery Recycling** – There is a kerbside collection trial taking place in central Fife which does not include Balmullo. We are all encouraged to take batteries for recycling to local shops, supermarkets, or recycling centres.
7. **Soil Health Project** – We received a request for help and include this under our briefing updates below.
8. **Tree briefing – Storm damage** 740 individual tree requests were received after storm Eowyn and Fife Council grounds maintenance staff have been largely directed to dealing with this backlog in recent weeks. We reported the fallen tree in the Burn behind Glebe Gardens which was raised with us at the last meeting.

Briefing Updates

The following news items may be of interest:

Fife roads resemble 'battlefield' due to poor signs

Councillor Jonny Tepp of the Scottish Liberal Democrats has criticized the poor state of Fife's roads, describing them as a "battlefield" due to broken signs and faded markings. He calls for an urgent review and a clear action plan, urging the council to use part of the extra £3.5m road investment to address these safety concerns within six months. Despite raising the issue since 2023, progress has been slow, with staffing and vehicle procurement delays cited as excuses. Tepp demands immediate action, criticizing the administration's lack of urgency in addressing road safety issues affecting communities across Fife.

ATTAINMENT GAP AND ACCESS TO UNIVERSITY

Figures published this week showed that the gap in attainment between the least and most deprived pupils is actually getting wider on several measures, despite Nicola Sturgeon's promise in 2016 that it would be closed completely.

LOCAL COUNCIL FUNDING

Local councils in Scotland have been starved of vital funding for many years and it has undermined their ability to provide services which people depend on. Through their budget negotiations the Scottish Liberal Democrats have tried to undo some of that damage. However, as parliament approved the funding for local councils this year, Willie also raised the problem of historically lower funding faced by some areas.

ECHO Soil Project

Robert Bilson, a Soil Ambassador for the James Hutton Institute's HORIZON ECHO Project, seeks soil samples from landowners in North East Fife. The ECHO Project aims to create a European soil database, analysing 16,500 samples to assess soil health and carbon levels. Citizen scientists can participate by providing samples using provided kits and a mobile app. Sampling is anonymous, and results will contribute to a European baseline, not individual assessments. Participation is encouraged from various land types and age groups.

Tay Bridgehead Focus Team

Councillor Jonny Tepp Westfield Terrace NEWPORT-ON-TAY DD6 8HX Mobile: 07840919734 Email: cllr.jonny.tepp@fife.gov.uk	Councillor Allan Knox Crawford Gardens ST ANDREWS KY16 8XQ Mobile 07719 770073 Email: cllr.allan.knox@fife.gov.uk
	

Council Out Of Hours:

For genuine emergencies concerning drainage, flooding, street lighting, building repairs, roads, repairs to council houses and social care. 03451 55 00 99
 From 5 pm to 8 am weekdays, 24hrs weekends and public holidays

Homeless Emergencies:

24 Hours: 0800 028 6231

National Emergency Contacts:

Fire, Police, Ambulance emergencies 999

Police Scotland (Non-Emergency) 101

NHS 24 111

Scottish Water Emergencies 0800 0788 788

Scottish Power Emergencies 0800 027 0072

Power Cuts 105

Scottish Gas Networks (SGN) 0800 111 9999

Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) 03000996699



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SCOTLAND**
Keeping people safe

February 2025

Welcome to the Tay Bridgehead monthly report from your local community officers, PC 0738 Norman Kinloch and PC 0719 Lewis Ballantyne.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Below is the local contact email address for your local community team.

This is **NOT** for reporting a crime but if you feel you require to contact your local community officer then our email address is the best way to do so.

If you do not have access to the internet then you can call 101 and the call handler can send an email on your behalf.

Email us at: TayBridgeHeadCPT@scotland.police.uk



Please Note, this email address is NOT for reporting a crime or ongoing incidents and due to our shift pattern, is not monitored 24/7.

COMMUNITY TEAM UPDATE

PC Daniel Strandberg has taken up a new post at Cupar Police Station therefore PC Lewis Ballantyne has fulfilled the role of PC Strandberg. PC Ballantyne has previously worked in Response Policing at St Andrews Police Station, and more recently as part of the St Andrews community policing team.

OFFROAD DIRT BIKE

Following numerous calls to Police from members of the public regarding an offroad motorcycle being ridden in a dangerous and erratic manner in and around the St Andrews area, multiple lines of enquiry were pursued by PC Ballantyne. Such enquiries lead to the arrest of a 27-year-old male who has since been reported to the Procurator Fiscal. The motorcycle was also seized.

ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR PATROLS



Community Officers, with assistance from our Response Officer colleagues, continue in our efforts to tackle anti-social behaviour in the North East Fife area. Dedicated officers carry out patrols every Friday and Saturday night including areas which have been highlighted as concern by residents. We will continue in our efforts to engage with youths and reduce the impact of Anti-social behaviour on local residents.

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OPERATION PARAMOUNT – ROAD SAFETY



PC's Kinloch and Ballantyne will continue to carry out Unipar enforcement deployments throughout the Ward area where possible over the coming weeks.

Over the past month, vehicle stop check points by Response and Road Policing colleagues have continued in effort to detect offences, promote road safety and educate drivers where appropriate.

This frequently results in conditional offers of fixed penalty being issued to drivers. Further advice was provided in relation to faulty vehicle lights, an issue that is especially pressing during the darker winter months.

COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH INITIATIVE



Community Speed Watch is a voluntary scheme driven by members of the community and is supported by Police Scotland (Fife Division). Essentially, it is a high visibility deterrent which strives to encourage motorists to reduce their speed, thus improving the safety and quality of lives of the local community.

The scheme runs during the summer months, therefore work is underway to have this up and running again from April 2025.

4 new volunteers have attended a training session on 24th February with a further 5 attending on 11th March, bringing the total number of vetted and trained volunteers across NEF to 20.



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POLICING POWERS IN SCOTLAND – SELDOM HEARD COMMUNITIES

Police Scotland has been working with partner agencies to identify ways of improving communication and building trust between the police and minority ethnic communities in Scotland.

Research found that some communities were unsure of how to contact the police and didn't have a clear understanding of policing powers in Scotland.

To address these concerns, Police Scotland have co-designed and developed a series of videos which breakdown a police officer's role and how to contact the police, translated into the main languages spoken by Scotland's minority ethnic communities.

As part of the development of these videos, PCs Wallace Cook from East Neuk and Landward Community Policing Team, PC Smith from Cupar Policing Team, and PCs Doherty and Brown from St Andrews Community Policing Team were involved in the filming process and feature throughout these videos.



and

Policing powers in Scotland <https://orlo.uk/TCDev>

How to contact the police <https://orlo.uk/YeQAZ>

Learn more about the research <https://orlo.uk/Eew5u>

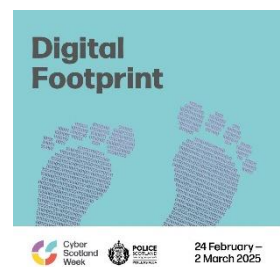
CYBERSCOTLAND WEEK

24th February, 2025 saw the start of CyberScotland Week. Take steps to protect yourself from a cybercrime by considering your digital footprint.

- Think before you post – scammers can use your content for criminal purposes
- Deactivate old accounts – unused profiles can be hacked, so delete them to stay secure
- Check privacy settings – control who sees your information to protect yourself from scams and fraud.

Police Scotland are committed to keeping Scotland's communities, businesses and assets safe in both the physical and digital world.

You can find out further information on how to protect yourself online at <https://orlo.uk/tZof8>



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DRIVEWISE 65+



Safer Communities, Fife Council, have set new dates for the coming year for the Drivewise 65+ initiative. This initiative is aimed at drivers 65+ years of age who would like to gain more confidence behind the wheel so that they can continue to drive safer for longer.

The course runs for 1 ½ hours and constitutes the driver driving their own car for about 20 minutes observed by a Road Policing Officer. This drive will cover different road layouts, different speed limits, junctions and roundabouts. The Officer will observe the drive and then chat to the driver about things they are doing well and things they can improve on to stay safe.

The session will be broken down to the following:

15 Mins – Registration, Checks and Pre-Evaluation

60 Mins – Observation Drive, Discussion Time, Opportunity to observe Police Officer driving shorter route

15 Mins – Post-Evaluation and Merchandise

The sessions planned for this year are

Tuesday 22nd April – Dunfermline Fire Station

Thursday 29th May – Kirkcaldy Ford Centre, and

Wednesday 25th June – St Andrews Fire Station

With time slots being from 0845 to 1015hrs, 0945 to 1115hrs, 1045 to 1215hrs, 1245 to 1415hrs and 1345 to 1515hrs.

Requirements

All drivers must bring their own car. This car must have a current MOT and driver must have a current licence. All details will be checked before the observation drive. A standard driving eyesight test will also be carried out.

There is no cost to sign up for this project as it is a free initiative. Drivers will be asked to use their own car for the observation drive and the route will be around 10-15 miles.

To register your interest please contact safercommunities.projectofficers@fife.gov.uk for a registration form.

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Cold Callers at your door?

Signs or stickers tell people that cold calling is not wanted at the property, to get hold of one of these, please contact your local policing team.

If you are unsure about the person on your doorstep, tell them you are calling a neighbour or friend to come over and be with you. A genuine caller will not mind waiting a few minutes for you to feel safe.

Don't buy goods or services at the door. Say no if someone offers to fix your roof or driveway for cash. Ask yourself if you need work carried out, discuss with family and friends and always obtain three quotes before deciding which trader to use.

Don't ever feel pressurised into making a decision. Paying cash at the door shows you keep money in the house, and the work may not be worth what you pay for it.

Close the door on uninvited callers. Don't feel obliged to answer the door to a cold caller. If you feel threatened or unsafe, contact the police immediately on 999.



Should you need to report suspicious behaviour:

- Contact Police on 101 or using the "contact us" form on the Police Scotland Website
- Report anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

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CALLS RECEIVED (UP TO 28/02/2025)

The Tay Bridgehead area had 196 calls.

Call break down is as follows;

Area 17D as a whole received 6 calls.

GAULDRY

6 calls to the police.

BALMERINO

0 calls to the police.

BOTTOMCRAIG

0 call to the police.

KILMANY & ROADS

0 calls to the police.

Area 18A as a whole received 86 calls

BALMULLO

7 calls to the police.

LEUCHARS

36 calls to the Police.

GUARDBRIDGE

30 calls to the police.

ST MICHAELS & ROADS

13 calls to the police.

Crimes Recorded - 18A

Crimes against persons – 5

Vandalism – 1

Dishonesty – 1

Road Traffic Offences - 3

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Area 18B as a whole received 42 calls

NEWPORT

14 calls to police.

WORMIT

18 calls to police.

DRUMOIG & A92

10 calls to police.

Crimes Recorded – 18B

Crimes against persons – 3

Dishonesty – 1

Road Traffic Offences - 4

Area 18C as a whole received 62 calls

TAYPORT

35 calls to the police.

Tay Bridge & A92

22 calls to the police.

Tentsmuir & Surrounding

5 calls to the police.

Crimes Recorded – 18C

Crimes against persons – 1

Vandalism - 1

Dishonesty – 1

Road Traffic Offences - 11

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Elected Members Update for local MPs, MSPs and Councillors

This update is part of our on-going commitment to keep elected members informed of the latest developments at NHS Fife that may be of interest to you and your constituents. For previous issues of the Elected Members Update, including updates on specific topics, please click [here](#).

To ensure accurate and timely responses from NHS Fife, all enquiries from elected members should be directed to fife.electedmember@nhs.scot for response and co-ordination.

Members are politely reminded not to approach services or individual members of staff directly for responses.

Enquiries and responses are sighted by the chief executive of the organisation.

Main updates

Employment tribunal

You will likely be aware of the employment tribunal involving NHS Fife that has been adjourned until the summer. Whilst there has been widespread coverage in news outlets and on social media, we consider it inappropriate to provide comment on its specifics while the tribunal is ongoing.

Cost incurred by tribunal

We note recent speculation around the prospective cost incurred by this tribunal.

We are unable to publicly disclose information relating directly or indirectly to an individual member of our staff on the grounds that this is personal information. Doing so would be in breach of confidentiality and Data Protection principles.

However, we can advise that Central Legal Office, which is part of NHS Scotland, provides comprehensive legal services to health boards and other public bodies and is representing NHS Fife in this action. NHS Fife is part of the Clinical Negligence and Other Risks Indemnity Scheme (CNORIS), which protects members against financial losses. Any other quoted costs associated with NHS Fife defending the ongoing Employment Tribunal case at this stage should be regarded as speculative. NHS Fife did not initiate the proceedings and is instead defending an action brought by the claimant.

News coverage of midwifery student

You may have read widespread news coverage of a midwifery student who was suspended from her placement following an investigation into social media comments.

The conduct of students on a placement is a matter for their academic institution, in line with their code of practice. As such, any decision to suspend a student is taken by their academic institution and not NHS Fife. On this occasion we understand that the student was placed on special leave and then returned to complete her placement.

NHS Fife is committed to fostering a safe, inclusive and respectful workplace where all employees are valued and supported in line with our legal duty and professional standards as defined by regulatory bodies such as the Nursing and Midwifery Council.

Proposals for reconfiguration of Minor Injuries units in north-east Fife

Fife's Health and Social Care Partnership is considering proposals to reconfigure minor injuries units in north-east Fife.

The proposals are part of a continued drive to modernise and transform health and social care services to ensure they remain safe, effective, and person centred.

There are known risks to sustainability of services within the current model of minor injuries care units in the area, predominantly around workforce, access to radiology (which most patients attending MIU require), delivery of care in the right place at the right time, and the delivery of best value in line with the resources available.

As part of this work, a clinically led options appraisal process was carried out for minor injuries care services at Adamson Hospital in Cupar and St Andrews Community Hospital. This looked at ways in which Fife Health and Social Care Partnership can optimise patient care and ensure resilience of the service for the future.

The clinically led options appraisal process identified three options for the future of minor injuries care services in north-east Fife. The clinically preferred model chosen was to relocate services currently delivered at Adamson Hospital in Cupar into one single minor injury unit based at St Andrews Community Hospital. This recommendation was guided by medical research, expert clinical opinion, and best practice guidelines to ensure decisions are made in

the best interests of patient care. By optimising services through this proposal, the aim is to help improve clinical outcomes, service user experience, make better use of resources, and provide a more sustainable model for the future.

Constituents can share their views via an [online survey](#) about the clinically preferred model being considered. This survey will share the options considered in the appraisal and allow the Fife Health and Social Care Partnership to capture feedback on what this option might mean for people in the community. The survey closes on Sunday 30 March. Anyone requiring the information in another format can email HSCP.ParticipationEngagement@Fife.gov.uk. Following engagement on these proposals, final recommendations will be presented to the Integration Joint Board (IJB) for final decision.

Naloxone initiative aiming to reduce drug deaths across Fife

NHS Fife, the charity With You, and local pharmacies have partnered to help reduce drug-related deaths. Following a rise in opioid deaths in Scotland, a new initiative has expanded access to naloxone, a life-saving overdose reversal drug.

All Fife pharmacies now offer emergency naloxone, and over 60 provide training and kits to at-risk individuals and their families. More than 300 pharmacy staff have been trained, resulting in a significant increase in naloxone kit distribution. More information is available [here](#).

New GP contractors appointed for Kennoway and Methilhaven

Denny Cross Medical Centre is to take over the running of both Kennoway Medical Group and Methilhaven Surgery in Buckhaven.

Work has been ongoing for some time to identify interested parties to return them to independent contractor status. The process of engaging with the staff has begun and patients at both practices have been informed.

The provision of services from Kennoway Medical Group and Methilhaven Surgery were made available as a combined practice list as part of a tender process. Following evaluation of those bids, which included a thorough and robust assessment of each submission in line with national procurement guidelines, Denny Cross Medical Centre were identified as the preferred bidder.

Denny Cross Medical Centre has run a GP surgery in Denny since 1990. They are an accredited GP training practice and have four GPs at the practice including Dr Kenny Deuchar. More information is available [here](#).

Fife maternity services awarded Baby Friendly Gold status

Teams from our maternity, neonatal and community children's services have achieved gold standard status. All three have now received the prestigious Baby Friendly Gold Award from UNICEF.

It's the highest level of accreditation and recognises the gold-standard level knowledge and commitment of all staff in promoting breastfeeding and bringing mothers and babies closer through a positive feeding experience.

Our maternity team was initially awarded gold accreditation in 2019, the first in Scotland to receive the award and was again the first in Scotland to be re-accredited gold in 2021. Our community team received their gold accreditation in April last year, with our neonatal team receiving their accreditation towards the end of 2024.

NHS Fife pioneering use of VR to manage chronic pain

We've become the first health board in Scotland to adopt virtual reality technology to help patients' management chronic pain.

Chronic or persistent pain affects around 1 in 5 adults, although recent evidence suggests that the true figure may be more than a third. By using the VR head and handsets, patients can take part in a variety of virtual experiences, from mindfulness and relaxation exercises to interactive activities like golf and fishing simulations.

The immersive nature of VR helps to shift focus away from pain, providing a form of escapism that can be both relaxing and therapeutic. More information can be viewed [here](#).

Closure of Newburgh Dental Practice

We were recently notified by Newburgh Dental Practice of their intention to close in April. Dental practices are obliged to give patients three months' notice of any permanent closure and patients should continue to contact the practice for their dental care while the practice remains in operation.

For patients unable to register at another local practice, emergency dental care remains available through our Public Dental Service. This can be arranged through Fife's dental advice line on 01592 226555, which is open on weekdays from 8:30am to 5pm, or via NHS 24 on 111 during evenings and weekends. For more information on what to do if constituents need emergency dental treatment, patients should visit the [dental pages](#) of our website.

Around 100 school pupils attend inaugural careers event

In partnership with Developing the Young Workforce (DYW), we were delighted to welcome local high school pupils to Queen Margaret Hospital this week for our interactive health and social care careers event.

Over two days, around 100 second- and third-year students attended from Beath, Levenmouth, Inverkeithing, St Andrews, Queen Anne, Madras, St Columba's, Waid, Dunfermline, Woodmill, and Lochgelly.

They explored the diverse world of health and social care, getting hands-on experience and a

glimpse into potential careers. From interactive sessions with various services to trying out our state-of-the-art simulation centre it was a great success.

In a separate event, around 60 third-year students from across Scotland attended our nursing and midwifery open morning on Wednesday 5 March at the Victoria Hospital.

Patient Hub enhancements

We are enhancing the way we use Patient Hub to communicate with patients about their appointments and care.

As well as being able to confirm or rebook appointments, they will also be able to view their letters and any supporting documents that would usually be sent via post. This reduces the printing and postage cost for the organisation, as well as supporting the resource usually used for sending these letters. More information is available [here](#).

Stroke services update

NHS Fife is committed to delivering high-quality stroke services in line with Priority 7 of the Scottish Government's Stroke Improvement Plan.

Stroke has a significant impact on individuals and their families, and we remain dedicated to ensuring timely diagnosis, effective treatment, and comprehensive rehabilitation services. Our stroke services are aligned with national guidelines and best practices to support the delivery of optimal patient outcomes. Key initiatives reflecting our commitment to Priority 7 include:

- **Early diagnosis and intervention:** we continue to enhance our stroke pathway to ensure patients receive rapid assessment and intervention. This includes the use of specialist stroke assessment tools, expanded access to neuroimaging, and a focus on early thrombolysis and thrombectomy where appropriate.
- **Integrated stroke care:** we are strengthening multidisciplinary team collaboration across acute, rehabilitation, and community settings to ensure seamless transitions and continuity of care for stroke survivors.
- **Ongoing rehabilitation and support:** we remain committed to providing person-centred rehabilitation, including physiotherapy, occupational therapy, and speech and language therapy, to support recovery and long-term independence.
- **Workforce development:** we are investing in training and development opportunities for our clinical teams to ensure they are equipped with the latest evidence-based knowledge and skills in stroke care.
- **Quality improvement and monitoring:** we actively participate in national audits and data-driven improvement initiatives to evaluate and enhance the effectiveness of our stroke services. We recently undertook our annual stroke review with the national MNC and Scottish Government. The feedback was extremely positive, and the Stroke Association were present.

We acknowledge the importance of continuous improvement and collaboration in stroke care and acknowledge the significant challenges in its provision, including the delivery of a round-the-clock, 24/7 national thrombectomy service, which is a service hosted by NHS Lothian.

NHS Fife remains fully engaged with the Scottish Government and key stakeholders to drive forward enhancements in service delivery and patient experience.

Sensory passport supporting young patients with autism

A staff nurse and her son, Jimmy, have developed a sensory passport and box aimed at improving the well-being of patients at the National Treatment Centre - Fife Orthopaedics.

This initiative is designed to assist patients, particularly those with autism, by providing tools that help them communicate and cope with anxiety. The sensory box includes various items such as puzzles, colouring pens, and a communication board. The board allows patients to express their feelings, especially when they are unable to communicate verbally. It serves as a way for patients to inform nurses about their needs during difficult times. A video featuring Jimmy is available [here](#).

Valleyfield Medical Practice

Following concerns that have been raised around Valleyfield Medical Practice and difficulties reaching it by phone, we are providing a reassurance that we are working with the practice to ensure these concerns are acknowledged and acted upon.

It is vitally important that patients in Valleyfield and the surrounding area have access to good quality local medical care and we are engaging directly with the contractors, AMG Scot Limited, who run the Practice.

Whilst we are engaging with the contractors, we would re-iterate that Valleyfield Medical Practice, like the vast majority of GP Practices in Fife, is run by independent contractors rather than by NHS Fife directly. Patients who wish to raise concerns about the service should address these directly with the practice, either by phone or by using the complaints form on the [Valleyfield Medical Practice website](#).

Finance Minister visits National Treatment Centre

Scotland's Minister for Finance and Local Government visited Fife's National Treatment Centre for orthopaedics (NTC) on 3 February. Shona Robison MSP heard from staff about local efforts to maximise the numbers of patients seen for planned surgery. The NTC opened in March 2023 and specialises in planned orthopaedic procedures, including hip and knee joint replacements. A video of her visit can be viewed [here](#).

Vaccination

Open access vaccination clinics

To help move away from ad-hoc drop-in clinics and provide more settled vaccination options, we have started a program of open access clinics. The ambition for these clinics is to provide specific clinics at the same times, venues, and days each month, where members of the public can currently attend for flu, RSV, pneumococcal, or shingles vaccination.

Initial sessions having been running since January and constituents with any questions around eligibility can visit the [open access webpage](#). They can also drop-in to a venue and speak to one of our vaccination team.

Sharing our messages

We appreciate the support of elected members in sharing our health messages with constituents and on social media.

Board papers and statistics

NHS Fife Board: Papers from the latest Board meeting on Thursday 30 January can be viewed [here](#). The next meeting takes place on Tuesday 25 March.

Performance: A wide range of research, guidance and statistical publications relating to NHS Fife can be viewed [here](#).

Workforce: Statistics on staffing and vacancies are published quarterly by NHS Education for Scotland. The latest publication can be viewed [here](#).

All Information correct at time of publishing. Issued by the corporate communications service.