**Update for key stakeholders
11 May 2023**

**Update on closure of Castle Gardens care home**

NHS Highland is working jointly with HC-One to ensure a managed closure of the Castle Gardens care home in Invergordon and ensure continuity of care for all residents.

Our Senior Operational Lead, supported by the Core Project Team, is leading and implementing the resident relocation and phasing arrangements following the NHSH Standard Operating Procedure for care home closures.

As of 10th May, we can confirm that 21 residents have moved from Castle Gardens following person-centred discussions to identify appropriate and available new placements for residents. In the main, feedback from families of residents that have moved has been positive. There were 35 residents in the home at the time of the closure announcement.

New homes have been identified for a number of the remaining residents; however it is anticipated that it will be difficult to place a small number of residents due to their care needs, preferences, and capacity within Highland. We continue to work with families and other care home providers to help identify appropriate and available options.

HC-One has advised NHS Highland that they are in consultation with all Castle Gardens staff and offered them further opportunities within their organisation; a small number of them have already taken up this offer are in the process of transferring to other HC-One care homes and others are still reviewing their options. Ensuring safe staffing levels at Castle Gardens for the duration of the closure process is a priority.

We are keen to retain Castle Gardens staff after the managed closure period in health and social care roles either with NHS Highland directly or employment facilitated with one of our partner providers.

NHS Highland input will be available in coming weeks, as appropriate, to support staff into any available opportunities to retain their skills within health and social care services within the locality. Further updates will be provided as appropriate.

**Face coverings guidance**

Face coverings and face mask guidance has been updated. People visiting a healthcare setting can now opt to wear a mask but it is not mandatory. People should not visit healthcare settings if they are unwell. Our online advice and signage is being updated and the guidance is being communicated internally.

**Feedback**

If you have comments or queries please contact nhshighland.feedback@nhs.scot