

# *Insch Medical Practice*



*Dr Karen Simpson  
Dr Paul J. Davies  
Dr Kate Irvine  
Dr Alison Steen  
Dr Jessica Thomson*

Newsletter April 2026

## **Staffing**

On 30 March, we said a fond farewell to Audrey Stables, our Nurse Team Leader, who has supported the GPs, nursing team and wider practice for the past 14 years. Audrey has played a vital role in ensuring a high-quality service for our patients, and we thank her sincerely for her dedication and commitment. We wish her a long, happy and well-deserved retirement.

We are also pleased to welcome Kirsten Thompson as our new Nurse Team Leader and wish her every success in her new role.

## **Re-introduction of our Listening service**

Thanks to the generous funding received from the Friends of Insch Hospital and Community, we are pleased to announce that the Listening Service will shortly be recommencing at Insch Medical Practice.

The exact start date will be confirmed soon. From that date, patients can self-refer to the service by contacting our reception team on 0345 337 6310.

## **NHS announce new patient service**

MyCare.Scot is a new online service designed to offer people access to their health & care information in one secure place.

It will be available to people aged 18 and over across Scotland from 15 April 2026.

Over time, MyCare.scot will develop to support people to manage their health and care in the way that suits them.

From April, people over the age of 18 can use MyCare.scot to view:

- Their Community Health Index (CHI) number
- Some of the details NHS Scotland has stored about them – like their home address
- Their medication and allergy information
- Their Covid and flu vaccination record since 2021
- Health and care services near them

When using MyCare.scot, people's information is protected by the same safeguards used for health and care information more widely. For instance, to use MyCare.scot you must verify your identity through ScotAccount.

## **MyCare.Scot patient helpline**

- NCC telephone number: 0800 030 8014
- The NCC is open: 9am-5pm, Monday-Friday, excluding public holidays

11 Rannes Street, Insch, Aberdeenshire. AB52 6JJ

Tel: 0345-337-6310

Email: [gram.inschadministrator@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.inschadministrator@nhs.scot)

Website: [www.inschmedicalpractice.co.uk](http://www.inschmedicalpractice.co.uk)

## **Update on Inch War Memorial Community Hospital**

The Friends of Inch Hospital and Community have written to the First Minister, John Swinney MSP, to raise serious concerns about the ongoing closure of Inch War Memorial Community Hospital and the continued loss of local services.

The hospital's inpatient beds and Minor Injuries Unit were closed temporarily in March 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Almost six years later, these services have not been reinstated. Instead, the building remains unused and we are now being asked to participate in a process focused on disposal of the hospital rather than a proper review of the impact of service loss.

The Friends believe this represents the permanent removal of a vital rural health service without appropriate assessment, transparency, or meaningful community involvement. Previous engagement exercises have been overly complex and, despite strong public participation, have not resulted in positive outcomes or clear plans for restoring local care.

Concerns have also been raised regarding fairness. Funding previously used to support services at Inch Hospital has been absorbed into wider NHS budgets, with no equivalent local reinvestment, unlike in other communities where alternative local services were supported following hospital closures.

The loss of community hospital beds affects not only local patients but places additional pressure on the wider health system, contributing to delayed discharges and increased demand on acute hospitals. Many local people are particularly concerned about the impact on older and frail patients who benefit most from care provided closer to home.

In their letter, the Friends ask the First Minister to:

- Pause any plans to dispose of the hospital
- Ensure an independent assessment of the service withdrawal
- Require meaningful community engagement
- Address the lack of local reinvestment

The aim is not special treatment, but fair, lawful and transparent decision-making that respects rural communities