

The year to 31st March, 2009 has been one of major development and continuing high level service improvement. This is exemplified by the major projects taking forward the New Victoria and Stobhill Hospitals which were able to accept their first patients in the weeks immediately following year-end. Together, these new hospitals represent a major milestone in the delivery of our Acute Services Strategy. In particular, they allow us to increase the level of day surgery undertaken by up to 20%.

Another notable milestone was the public engagement in West Dunbartonshire which has allowed us to identify a sustainable way forward for the Vale of Leven Hospital.

Alongside these major hospital developments, I am pleased to report that our performance against national access targets has ensured delivery across a wide range of activities, and that level of performance is being sustained.

This is only possible because of the partnership between our clinical and managerial teams and increasing engagement with the people who use our services. I am very conscious of the shared sense of pride in the NHS and have great pleasure in paying tribute to everyone who has played a part in delivering our services, or in shaping and influencing them.

Each year brings new challenges. In providing treatment services, we require to keep on drawing on the most up-to-date service developments while continuing to ensure that the fabric of our premises are fit for purpose. The public health challenges are daunting and, while we can take encouragement from indications that we are making progress in areas such as reduction of smoking, the fundamental challenges remain in terms of deprivation, overuse of alcohol and poor diet. All these contribute to the continuing stark inequalities of health across our geographical area of responsibility. We continue to work with our local authority and voluntary sectors seeking to turn the tide.

The NHS Board Members accept the strategic challenge to build on our increasingly strong track record, so that we can ensure that the population of Glasgow and Clyde has a health service which makes an ever greater contribution to their wellbeing.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew O. Robertson', written in a cursive style.

Andrew O. Robertson, OBE, LLB
Chairman