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## WELCOME FROM ALAN GRAY

By Alan Gray, Senior Responsible Officer, Baird and ANCHOR and Director of Finance, NHS Grampian



2020 presented the most significant challenge of a generation and it will be a year that will remain in our collective thoughts for a long time. However, it was also a year in which we laid down the foundations for a brighter future and hope for better days ahead. One of these highlights was the formal approval of the business case for the Baird and ANCHOR

project and the commencement of the construction phase.

Reaching this point has been a significant achievement and the journey to this point has not been without its challenges - who could have predicted the economic circumstances that would impact on the construction sector, the UK voting to leave the European Union and a global pandemic. Any one of these issues would have been a significant obstacle but a combination of all three plus a few other issues presented a range of challenges that I don't think any previous project has had to work through.

It is great credit to all colleagues who have been on this journey with us that we tackled each issue that emerged and never lost faith that this project would be delivered. I cannot thank you enough for your commitment, professionalism and determination to get this far. I know, from having been involved with the project from the start, that both new buildings have been designed and planned with great care and compassion, not only to provide excellent patient care but to be family friendly, welcoming and inviting. Whether supporting families and children at the first stages of life or provided high quality patient care for oncology and haematology, these new facilities once commissioned will be

available for our staff and patients for generations to come.

When Matthew Hay created the vision for the Foresterhill Campus, he trusted us to continue to build on this going forward. I know there will be further challenges ahead but this is our opportunity to create a new legacy and we have a great team of colleagues committed to delivering this project in line with our shared ambition. A true legacy is one that is etched into the minds of others and the stories they will share about what is achieved. I look forward to working with you and keeping you updated as we move forward during 2021.

## PROJECT UPDATE

By Jackie Bremner, Project Director



It is with great pleasure that I write this project update following a period of delay.

I am very pleased to report that the Scottish Government approved the Full Business Case in September 2020 and then in October we entered into the Stage 4

construction contract with partner's GRAHAM Construction, our Principal Supply Chain Partner (PSCP).

During the run up to the Christmas break, a programme of site mobilisation activities got underway, with construction activities scheduled to commence for the Baird Family Hospital in January and the ANCHOR Centre in February 2021.

During the first six months the main works will be 'piling' on both sites. *Piling – heavy stakes/posts installed to support the foundations of a building's superstructure.* The images below are of the piling work starting on the Baird site.



During the summer and autumn of 2021 the focus of works on both sites will be the creation of the concrete structure and also the steel structure at the ANCHOR site.

Arrangements to ensure safe movement of patients, visitors, staff and construction staff

and vehicles are also being put in place. This includes some changes to site access for public vehicles, pedestrians and emergency vehicles (covered later in newsletter).

Additionally, the PSCP and Project Team members meet weekly with clinical services that are adjacent to the construction sites to discuss forthcoming works and any issues of concern including healthcare associated infection issues, dust and noise management etc.

The project communication strategy has recently been updated for the construction phase of the project. The team are putting arrangements in place to ensure good communication with all stakeholders, especially while all of the COVID restrictions continue to be in place.

This newsletter and future editions will keep you updated with construction, commissioning and preparations for bringing in to operation, with the ANCHOR Centre due to open in May 2023 and the Baird Family Hospital in December 2023. Thereafter the current Aberdeen Maternity Hospital will be demolished during the first half of 2024.

**Please follow our project on Social Media for our latest news and opportunities to get involved – and invite your friends to like our pages too!**



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Dedicated project website also available at **[www.bairdanchor.org](http://www.bairdanchor.org)**

## Baird and ANCHOR Site Progress

By Graham Davidson, Technical Supervisor



On Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021 construction works finally commenced on the Baird and ANCHOR Project. Since then a number of changes have taken place.

The pedestrian footpath leading into the site from the Foresterhill Road junction towards the Emergency Department (ED) and The Royal Aberdeen Children's Hospital (RACH) has been moved. This is to allow piling works to take place in that location. Some changes have also taken place to the roads around the Baird site; a one way system is now operational on the road which leads from the Foresterhill Road junction, past the front of RACH, finishing before the entrance into the RACH carpark. This also means that the road beyond the RACH carpark is now a No Entry and is closed to all traffic. For more information and maps for pedestrian and vehicle access please follow this link

[www.bairdanchor.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/CGD-200524-1.pdf](http://www.bairdanchor.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/CGD-200524-1.pdf) or scan the QR code.



For those who have been on the campus you may have noticed a lot of heavy equipment has been delivered to the Baird site. These include piling rigs, mobile cranes, earth moving equipment and excavators. One of the first activities to be carried out is the installation of a number of guide walls, these guide walls are circular in shape and cast concrete into the ground. These guide walls are cast in place to ensure that the piling rigs rotary screw is 'guided' into the ground and kept straight, concreting of the foundations can take place thereafter. The piling work starts in January and will be ongoing until July 2021.

The Baird site fencing/hoarding panels adjacent to Foresterhill Road are being moved this month. This will result in the pedestrian footpath on this side of the road having to close and pedestrians will have to use the footpath on the other side of Foresterhill Road. A zebra crossing is being



installed on Foresterhill Road beside the junction leading to the Emergency Department, this will allow pedestrians to cross back across the road towards ED and RACH should they wish. More information coming soon.

Due to the onset of the COVID pandemic permission was sought by the main contractor, GRAHAM Construction to establish additional welfare and office facilities in the location of the redundant play park. After a number of consultations with various NHS Grampian stakeholders,

permission was granted. The old equipment was removed and excavations carried out to level the site and the units have now arrived.

At present there is very little activity taking place on the ANCHOR site, the exception being deliveries of materials and site survey's. This is due largely to the activities that are taking place on Baird as well as the works that were required to install the one way system and associated signage. Works on ANCHOR will start in earnest during February 2021.



First concrete poured on The Baird Family Hospital site

## Our Approach to Communication

Lauren Tweedley, Consultation and Engagement Officer



I am usually the person that is asking for newsletter articles and taking colleague's photos but now it's my turn. The photo above was taken on my first visit to the Baird and ANCHOR sites and when you actually stand there you realise how impressive these buildings are going to be. I am Lauren Tweedley, Communications Lead for the Baird and ANCHOR project. I joined NHS Grampian's Corporate Communication team in 2009 and I have worked on various new builds, service redesigns and capital projects for over six years. I actually started working on Baird and ANCHOR before it was even known as Baird and ANCHOR. I then left NHS Grampian to try something new but I quickly realised that NHS Grampian was always meant to be a permanent feature in my life.

I came back to NHS Grampian in 2019 and jumped at the chance to join the Baird and ANCHOR team in 2020. Being part of such a significant project is a privilege and as communication lead I want to ensure that we communicate well with and involve people throughout the whole process.

A clear communication and engagement strategy has always been a vital part of the Baird and ANCHOR project. We have involved patients, stakeholder groups, staff and the general public throughout the project and we always want to ensure that people feel included and well informed.

There was a period of time in 2020 where we were quiet publicly but there was lots going on behind the scenes to get the final contract signed in October 2020. Since then we have refreshed our communications strategy for the construction phase of the project. We plan for this next stage of communication to be visual with the use of fly through videos of the two buildings and regular photos and videos from the site. We want to increase our social media presence, as well as having Facebook and Twitter you can now keep up to date with the project via our Instagram page. Scan

the QR code below to visit our new Instagram page or visit [www.instagram.com/bairdanchor](https://www.instagram.com/bairdanchor) . Please keep sharing our posts we appreciate it!



In 2021 we are planning to ask our patients and staff to do the talking and tell us about their experiences and what difference they think the new buildings might make. Look out for these videos on social media and on our website.

Engaging and involving our stakeholder groups has always been a priority for us

and recently this has continued virtually. If you are part of a group or are a member of staff that would like to know more about the project please get in touch and one of the team will happily come and speak to your interest group or colleagues, albeit virtually at the moment.

We hope this gives you an insight of some of the communication tools we are planning to use, in conjunction with more traditional methods such as our website and this quarterly newsletter.

If you have any queries about the project, ideas of ways we should be communicating or would like to be added to our newsletter distribution list please contact us at [gram.bairdandanchor@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.bairdandanchor@nhs.scot).

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