

NHS Highland chair takes on new volunteering role

4 October 2024

The chair of NHS Highland has been appointed as chair of the NHSScotland Volunteering Advisory Board.

Sarah Compton-Bishop succeeds Tom Steele, who has been chair of the advisory board for the past five years and has decided to step down from the role.

Healthcare Improvement Scotland manages the NHS volunteering programme in Scotland. The advisory board is a strategic group providing leadership and support to the delivery of the Volunteering in NHSScotland Strategic Vision 2023-28.

Sarah has a broad range of governance experience across public and third sector organisations, including her work as Chair of the Argyll and Bute Integration Joint Board and NHS Highland Staff Governance Committee.

Her career has spanned roles in operational delivery and improvement, strategic leadership and community-led development in remote, rural communities – something she remains passionate about. Sarah has worked extensively in and with several volunteer organisations and continues to support initiatives in her local community.

Sarah said: "I am delighted to have accepted the chance to chair the NHS Scotland Volunteering Advisory Board.

"I look forward to leading and supporting this important work. Volunteering plays such an important part in the NHS, with people selflessly giving up their time for the benefit of others, and it makes such a difference, day in, day out.

"I would like to thank Tom Steele for his dedication and work with the board over the past five years."

Carole Wilkinson, chair of Healthcare Improvement Scotland, said: "We at Healthcare Improvement Scotland are delighted that Sarah has agreed to take on the Chair of the Volunteering Advisory Board.

"I know this is an area that she is passionate about, valuing the contribution of individuals in communities. We are very much looking forward to working with Sarah and continuing to drive forward the volunteering agenda across NHS Scotland."

Tom Steele said: "It has been a wonderful five years as chair of the group, which saw unprecedented challenges to the volunteers.



“During my time as chair, we have seen volunteers come to the fore during the pandemic, giving up their time for the benefit of others, to make their lives more comfortable.

“It has been an honour to hold this post, and I would like to thank everyone who has given their time over the past few years, and for their strong support.

“I wish Sarah every success for the future in this important position.”

Tom will continue in his role as chair of Scottish Ambulance Service and co-chair of the NHS Scotland Innovation Design Authority.

A spokesperson for the advisory board added: “The members of the NHS Scotland Volunteering Advisory Board wish to thank Tom for his leadership and support, recognising the significant impact that he has had on volunteering in NHS Scotland.”

Find out more about the work of the Volunteering Advisory Board:

<https://www.hisengage.scot/equipping-professionals/volunteering-in-nhs-scotland/nhs-scotland-advisory-board/>