

Daily Brief...

Thursday 1 October 2026

Executive Team update Please see below for the report from this week's Executive Team meeting:

Matters of concern or Key Risks to Escalate	Major Actions Commissioned/ Work Underway
- A critical incident was declared following sustained pressure at Dr Gray's Hospital, alongside increased pressure across the wider system over the public holiday weekend. A review will be undertaken to understand the contributing factors, actions taken and to identify learning. - Challenges remain in establishing walk-in centre provision in Aberdeenshire and Moray, particularly in relation to workforce availability, premises and recruitment. Work continues to identify sustainable models.	- Work is underway to review learning from the recent critical incident and the Unscheduled Care September Sprint, including escalation arrangements, use of capacity across the system and implications for winter planning. - Work is progressing on Dr Gray's Hospital Maternity Model 6 programme, with the remaining elements being delivered in phases as the necessary arrangements are put in place. Work also continues towards reinstating elective paediatric surgery at DGH by the end of December.
Positive Assurances to Provide	Decisions Made
- Analysis undertaken during the Unscheduled Care September Sprint showed improvements at ARI in emergency department flow, ambulance turnaround performance and patient waiting times during the reporting period. This will be analysed further at the Unscheduled Care Delivery Board for consideration of any positive sustainable practice. - Staff recruitment and resource plans are progressing in several areas, including support for Information Governance, Complaints and Employee Relations. Further work is also underway to	- The Executive Team approved the proposed first phase of a new approach to performance review meetings, where learning from the initial meetings will be used to inform and refine the approach. - Revised trajectories for Planned Care show improvements in reducing long waits and were supported in principle, subject to checks on the figures. Work continues to strengthen waiting-list validation, maximise local capacity and explore further support across the East of Scotland.

confirm the longer-term support required for Health and Care Staffing Act implementation.

- The Executive Team endorsed the refreshed approach to completing outstanding staff welfare improvement actions, subject to clarification of the associated costs and approval arrangements and agreed continued oversight of delivery.

Reminder – Interpretation services In the current financial climate, we want to deliver interpretation services in a cost-efficient manner while also ensuring equitable access to healthcare. Please remember the following:

- if using Language Line, please use the 0800 number not 0845 number.
- Language Line charge is per minute. If the appointment is less than 30 minutes, assess if this option is feasible.
- if you book a face-to-face interpreter, the minimum charge applies for a 1 hour booking. If the appointment goes beyond 1 hour, we get additional charges per minute.
- for face-to-face bookings, a cancellation fee applies if cancelled within 48 hours.

If you are not sure whether you need Language Line or a face-to-face interpreter, [resources available via this link](#) can help you decide on the most appropriate mode of interpretation (i.e. Face-to-face, telephone interpreting, Near Me). For more information on interpretation services, please email gram.equalitydiversity@nhs.scot

Multi Factor Authentication – move to Microsoft Authenticator To improve security, Microsoft is retiring support for text message (SMS) and phone call (voice) Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA). This will be withdrawn on 1 February 2027. If you currently receive security codes by text message or phone when signing in to Microsoft 365 services such as Outlook or Teams, you are encouraged to switch to Microsoft Authenticator as soon as possible. Users who have not moved to Microsoft Authenticator will be unable to access Microsoft 365 services, including Outlook email and Teams from the retirement date. We understand some colleagues cannot carry a phone with Authenticator enabled; [if this is you, please complete this form to advise the Digital team of your requirements](#). A step-by-step guide to making the switch to Authenticator [is available via this link](#).

Move to Clinell Universal Wipes - installation of dispensers As part of the change from detergent only wipes (in yellow packets), to combined detergent and disinfectant wipes (in green packets), engineers from the company Clinell will be on the ARI site from Monday (5 October), to start the wall dispenser mounting. The mounted dispensers will enable the wipes to be available near to the point of use in clinical areas. The roll out of dispenser mounting will continue to other sites in the coming weeks. The dispensers use adhesive and do not require drilling into the wall, therefore should not be invasive or disruptive to services. However, if this work impacts on services in any way, please get in touch with the IPC team.

HOPE Conference – 9 November The HOPE collaborative brings together key person-led approaches - Getting it Right for Everyone, Putting People First, Realistic Medicine and Trauma-Informed Practice to put people, relationships and communities at the centre of health and care across Grampian. Join us on Monday 9 November at Cults Academy, for an inspiring day of learning, connection and shared practice; guest speakers include Professor Sir Gregor Smith, Scotland's Chief Medical Officer. [Further information and the sign-up details can be found via this link.](#)

Big Data in Obstetrics & New 150-Day Metrics You are invited to 'Big Data in Obstetrics & New 150-Day Matrix' webinar, next Tuesday (6 October), 12-12.55pm, hosted live on Teams. This bitesize 'lunch and learn' webinar will welcome two highly knowledgeable guest speakers: Rachel Kearns, consultant anaesthetist at NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, and Ian Anderson, information services manager at NHS Research Scotland. [To register, please follow this link.](#)

Health Literacy Month – October Explore health literacy, inequalities, digital inclusion, trusted information, and AI with short online sessions from PSD Scotland Knowledge Services. [Follow this link to book](#) online 30-minute sessions running 5-7 October for "Bridging the gap: Health Literacy, equity and trusted Information". Think you can spot trustworthy health information? Try our Library & Knowledge service online challenge [by following this link.](#)

Climate Week - World Vegetarian Day As part of our spotlight on Climate Week, we are also marking World Vegetarian Day. People choose vegetarian meals for many different reasons. Some are motivated by health benefits, others by environmental concerns, animal welfare, cultural traditions, or personal preferences. Research suggests that people who eat predominantly plant-based diets often have lower levels of cholesterol, lower blood pressure and a healthier body weight, all of which are associated with a reduced risk of heart disease and other long-term health conditions. There is also evidence that eating more plant-based foods and reducing consumption of red and processed meat may help lower the risk of certain conditions, including cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes and some cancers. However, it is important to remember overall dietary quality, physical activity, and other lifestyle factors all play a role in maintaining good health. Our catering outlets will have a range of vegetarian options on the menu today, why not sample them and see if you can find a new favourite?

Tune of the day Our first request today comes from Jennifer Whitton, dedicated to Aimee Bremner, a biomedical support worker in the haematology lab at ARI. Aimee leaves today to focus full-time on her Masters degree. The whole team is incredibly proud of her and wants to wish her the absolute best of luck with her studies. They've requested [New Shoes](#) by Paolo Nutini.

For National Poetry Day, Judy Taylor in the DAIM team sent me a fabulous list of suggestions; I've gone for [Philosophy](#) by Jo Bell (EP) If you want to request a tune, follow up on items included in this brief, or suggest an item for sharing, drop us an email via gram.dailybrief@nhs.scot