

Daily Brief...



Wednesday 13 May 2026

We found our way – to Pathway to Excellence! As nurses around the globe celebrated International Nurses Day, our Mental Health and Learning Disabilities Service received official confirmation last night of achieving Pathway to Excellence® designation. Services span three Health and Social Care Partnerships, Royal Cornhill Hospital and mental health services at Dr Gray’s Hospital. NHS Grampian is the first health board in Scotland to achieve the prestigious Pathway to Excellence designation® and the first mental health and learning disabilities service in the UK to reach this accolade. [Follow this link to read the full story on our website.](#)

Update from Executive Team Here is the summary of this week’s meeting of the Executive Team (ET).

Matters for escalation	Major Actions Commissioned/Work Underway
<p>An enhanced focus on addressing cultural and behavioural themes is needed to support improvements to unscheduled care, including clarity on roles, responsibilities and accountability – as some of these issues are affecting delivery. Clear next steps were agreed by the Executive Team which will involve engagement with the wider senior leadership community.</p> <p>Environmental risks were identified (e.g. ventilation and temperature control issues) as well as patient safety items requiring prompt resolution.</p>	<p>Development of a comprehensive safety paper using national benchmarking data to respond to Assurance Board feedback and provide clear evidence of system safety is required. This will also be shared with our Clinical Governance Committee.</p> <p>Reconfiguration of the unscheduled care programme into a Delivery Board with fewer priorities which will have impact, a stronger focus on performance metrics, and clearer ownership of actions.</p> <p>Commissioned work to clarify governance routes and action plans arising from recent Health and Safety Executive correspondence.</p> <p>Progression of planned care scenario modelling for Quarters 2-4 of 2026/27, including capacity-based and funding-based options to address longest waits, alongside strengthened reporting of waiting times across key thresholds.</p>

	Initiation of a leadership fundamentals framework and development activity to strengthen management capability and organisational culture, supported by structured self-assessment and targeted development. This work will be shared in the weeks to come with the Grampian Area Partnership Forum and Extended Leadership Team.
Positive Assurances to Provide	Decisions Made
<p>Constructive engagement with the Assurance Board has continued, including positive feedback on engagement during site visit which included a walkabout re: emergency pathway, with Scottish Government reporting visible improvements in unscheduled care pathways and staff engagement.</p> <p>Early progress in planned care delivery, with performance stronger than anticipated at the end of Q4 and into Q1, supported by continued planning for further improvement initiatives.</p>	Terms of Reference for new Executive Team meeting were approved.

Learning at Work Week: Many Ways to Learn This annual event kicks off next Monday highlighting the diverse ways people develop skills in the workplace. It will be taking over the Managers Development Forum and holding a series of short and exciting presentations throughout the week. The timetable will be shared via the intranet news; [you can join the Managers Development Forum by following this link](#). Library colleagues will also have a stall titled "Health Information You Can Trust in the Age of AI" in ARI opposite Aroma on Tuesday 19 May from 10.30am-2.30pm

Upcoming Reproductive Health and Childbirth webinar You are invited to attend the next webinar in this series, entitled 'Big Data in Obstetrics & New 150-Day Matrix' on Wednesday 17 June, between 12-12.55pm. This 'lunch and learn' event will be opened by the specialty group's champion support manager, Annie Ganguly, and chaired by Professor Mohamed Abdel-Fattah, clinical chair in gynaecology and director of the Aberdeen Centre for Women's Health Research (ACWHR) at the University of Aberdeen. It will welcome two highly knowledgeable guest speakers: Rachel Kearns, a consultant anaesthetist at NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, and Ian Anderson, information services manager at NHS Research Scotland. [All welcome, to register simply follow this link](#).

Research and Development update Congratulations to NHS Grampian wider study team for being recognised by the British Society for Rheumatology Psoriatic Arthritis Register. We were the first study site to open in 2018 and have recruited over 50 patients with psoriatic arthritis to this long-term observational study coordinated by the University of Aberdeen.

Wellbeing, Culture, and Development Wednesday

Mental Health Awareness Week [Follow this link to find out more about the theme for Mental Health Awareness Week](#) this year – it's all about Action. What does that mean for you, for others and for the organisation? Keep it realistic and manageable. We have put together [simple steps you can try out this week with yourself, with colleagues and teams.](#)

Upcoming Financial Courses Upcoming [sessions include NHS Partial Retirement](#) for 1995 Scheme members exploring draw down and pension flexibilities, and [Retirement Planning for a Positive Future](#) for anyone considering their future options. Dates available throughout the rest of the year and spaces remain available at the upcoming sessions listed below:

Partial Retirement:

2 June: 13.00-15.30

11 June: 09.30-11.30

Retirement Planning:

20 May: 13.00-15.30

5 June: 09.30-12.00

For more information on any of these items or to raise any queries, please contact the team via gram.wcd@nhs.scot

Tune of the day At the start of the week, we highlighted National Smile Month. Gwen Robertson, an advanced public health practitioner in the dental and oral health team, makes today's request, choosing The Killers and [Smile Like You Mean It](#) For our Pathway colleagues, it has to be [I'm On My Way by the Proclaimers](#) – stand poised for their parody 'We've Found Our Way' short video reel... Congratulations!

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.communications@nhs.scot