

Daily Brief...



Wednesday 15 April 2026

Westholme fire – message from Laura Skaife-Knight *“I want to take this opportunity to express my thanks to everyone involved in the response to Monday night’s fire at Westholme. Together you kept people safe and maintained access and clinical delivery throughout the incident. Your dedication and professionalism were exemplary, and I am proud of how you supported patients and one another during what was a very challenging situation. I also want to say thank you to our emergency service colleagues in the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and Police Scotland for their prompt response.”*

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

Matters of concern or key risks to escalate	Major Actions Commissioned/ Work Underway
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Continuing unscheduled care pressures, with recent deterioration in flow driven by reduced discharge rates, high bed occupancy and increased frailty and respiratory admissions. Further work is needed to stabilise performance and sustain earlier improvements.Estates risks, prompted by fire damage at Westholme, Woodend, highlight the need for a lessons learned review and clarity about escalation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Acute Governance: programme oversight confirmed for key escalated risks, including diagnostic backlogs, discharge challenges and adult protection, with governance routes clarified.Executive Team development programme being commissioned, complemented by more regular informal sessions for team building and working through challenges.

Positive Assurances to Provide	Decisions Made
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National (Scottish Government) feedback recognised the clarity and quality of NHS Grampian’s financial correspondence and analysis in relation to Operational Improvement Plan funding. Improvements noted in quality and safety of care indicators, including reductions in falls and progress in complaints handling. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community conversations – agreement to continue quarterly on a topic-based model, with improved facilitation support. Executive leads for areas with outstanding Business Continuity Plans to have 1:1s with managers to accelerate completion Executive Team agreed to a set of shared objectives to focus on collectively in 2026/27 aligned to our strategic objectives so the team lead from the front.

Intranet migration update The old intranet system has been turned off, including legacy redirects for all migrated content. If you find you are unable to access Intranet resources previously available, please check and update any bookmarks or shortcuts you are using **before** logging an incident with the Digital Service Desk. Thank you for your co-operation.

2026/27 organisational priorities Thanks to everyone who attend yesterday’s briefing on our organisational priorities for 2026/27. The session was recorded to enable the presentation to be shared widely, and we’d encourage you to do so. [Please follow this link to view the recording.](#)

Planned downtime – APEX Laboratory system – this Saturday Between 7.30am and 2pm this Saturday (18 April), the APEX Laboratory system will be unavailable, and labs will offer an emergency service only to secondary care. [Full details of this are available via this intranet link.](#) The unavailability of APEX does not apply to Medical Genetics; please continue to send genetics samples with request forms as normal.

Cardiology – trial of OrderComms for outpatient referrals The adult cardiology echo service is currently trialling OrderComms for use in Outpatient referrals. As such, the Ordercomms referral form for OP echo will appear on the OC Investigations tab as an option. Please do not use this to raise OP echo referrals currently, carry on using paper referrals for OP echo. The Inpatient echo workbench is live for requesting IP echo as normal.

Migraine training for pharmacy teams – live online session Pharmacists and pharmacy teams across NHS Grampian are invited to join a focused, live, migraine training session next Wednesday (22 April), 7-8.30pm, via Teams. This will be led by Dr David Watson, a GP with special interest in headache, consultant neurologist Dr Callum Duncan, and Abigail Duthie, a community pharmacist.

This session will strengthen your skills in recognising migraine, understanding treatment options, and applying this in day-to-day practice in pharmacy teams. [Complete the form available via this link](#) to register; more migraine training and resources [can be found by following this link.](#)

Grampian Respiratory MCN 2026 professional conference 2026 Registration is now open for this year's conference which will take place on Wednesday 13 May 2026 at the Aberdeen Altens Hotel. As always, the event will emphasise networking, share challenges and successes, and feature a diverse range of educational talks and interactive workshops. Interested? [Follow this Eventbrite link](#) to see the full programme and book your slot.

Wellbeing, Culture, and Development Wednesday

- **Guided Journaling** These sessions take place weekly on Teams [and can be booked via this Turas link \(log-in required\)](#).
- **Courageous Conversations** New Courageous Conversations session dates are now live, booking is via Turas, [just follow this link](#) (log-in required).
- **Stepping into Spring** Becoming more active is good for our physical **and** our mental health and wellbeing. Looking for some friendly competition and motivation? Why not make a team and join the Aberdeenshire Council Step Challenge? [Full details available via this link](#), the deadline for signing-up is 10pm on Sunday 19 April.
- **'Just because you made adjustments, doesn't make me the same as you'** Join us for the next wellbeing talk, taking place on Thursday 30 April, between 2-3pm. The focus this time is Neurodiversity in the Workplace. All are welcome, [more information is via this link](#).

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 Ailsa Skelly bids farewell to her colleagues at Rubislaw Place Medical Group today; colleagues say she's much too young to retire and she will be very much missed. For Ailsa, The Faces and [Ooh La La](#) (don't we all wish we knew what we know now, when we were younger?) (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.communications@nhs.scot