

Daily Brief...

Thursday 15 October 2026

Frailty expansion: phased implementation and next steps

Following further consideration by the Executive Team yesterday, a two-step approach to delivering the expanded frailty service at ARI is being taken. An interim specialist frailty pathway will be introduced by 23 November 2026 to strengthen patient flow and winter resilience, ahead of the implementation of a permanent Green Zone Frailty Centre by no later than 1 April 2027.

The interim model will bring together Wards 102, 303 and 304 as a coordinated 57-bed frailty pathway, supporting earlier specialist assessment, reducing avoidable delays and improving links between hospital and community services.

[Follow this link to read a full update.](#)

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
No new items this week.	- Work to implement the interim Frailty model on 23 November 2026 was endorsed, with Ward 102 providing assessment capacity and Wards 303 and 304 providing step-down. Delivery will be supported by the How We Work framework and a Full Capacity Protocol. - A cross-Divisional group will lead the options appraisal to determine which ward will relocate to enable the creation of the permanent Frailty expansion in the Green Zone by 1 April 2027. The Divisional teams will be supported by the Programme Management Office and Senior Responsible Officer to delivery this Board priority. - Planned and Unscheduled Care improvement work continues, including development of the Planned Care Recovery Plan, work

	on flow and length of stay, as well as alignment of local improvement activity with regional and national programmes.
Positive Assurances to Provide	Decisions Made
Planned Care recovery activity is progressing with revised trajectories showing improvement but with further work required to achieve the path to zero long waits.	- The Executive Team approved implementation of an interim Frailty model in the Orange Zone from 23 November 2026 as a winter resilience measure ahead of the establishment of a permanent Green Zone Frailty Centre from 1 April 2027. - Revised Maternity Programme Board governance arrangements were supported in principle and will return to the Executive Team following refinement through further staff engagement in the next 2 weeks.

Important Customer Notice – Aroma Cairngorm Café Due to equipment breakdowns, Aroma Cairngorm Café in the Yellow Zone is currently unable to provide hot meals, toasties, or paninis.

We will continue to offer our full range of hot and cold drinks, as well as cold snacks.

We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause and appreciate your understanding while we work to restore full service. This issue is outside of our control, but we are doing everything possible to resolve it.

All other catering outlets across the site remain fully operational. Thank you for bearing with us.

Teenage and young adult cancer education day This event will take place on Thursday 12 November, at the V&A Dundee, 10am-4pm and will feature engaging discussions on the challenges and considerations in supporting teenagers and young people with cancer. If you unable to attend in-person, you can join colleagues in the Suttie Centre to participate online, with lunch provided. You can register for the event [by completing the form available at this link](#). If you would prefer to join colleagues in the Suttie Centre, once registered please contact Amand Copland via amanda.copland@nhs.scot to confirm. Registration closes on 28 October.

Tune of the day Our request today goes out to Alison McKenzie, nurse manager in surgery, who is New York bound to celebrate a BIG birthday. Colleagues, including Fiona Whyment, hope you have a wonderful time and have requested [Golden](#) by Harry Styles.

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