

Daily Brief...



Wednesday 18 March 2026

Update from Chief Executive Team Here is the summary of this week's meeting of the Chief Executive Team (CET).

Matters of concern or key risks to escalate	Major Actions Commissioned/ Work Underway
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unscheduled Care: sustained pressure continues (resulting from flow, exit block, bed occupancy). Recent signs of improvement in performance requires continued co-ordinated system action• Cyber security: this corporate risk remains elevated due to our legacy infrastructure and required mitigations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unscheduled Care Improvement Programme - further prioritisation of workstreams is underway to ensure focus on those delivering the greatest impact.• The transfer of pre-operative assessment activity into Planned Care governance structures is being progressed to ensure digital and process improvements are sustained.• Further work is underway to complete the operational governance mapping, with•
Positive Assurances to Provide	Decisions made
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Relationships with HIS and NES were described as constructive, supportive and focused on improvement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Integrated Acute Pathways: Phase 2 milestone report endorsed and onward reporting mechanism, including submission to Performance, Assurance, Finance and Infrastructure Committee, was agreed.• CET endorsed the direction of travel for operational governance mapping, agreeing that this work should continue to be refined and brought back for final approval ahead of the introduction of refreshed Operational Governance arrangements which commence in April. The paper will return to the Executive Team meeting on 7 April.

- Opportunities for senior staff to participate in Leading for the Future training programme was agreed to be promoted through line management structures recognising its value in building system leadership capability.
- Cyber security: corporate risk position was formally noted, and it was agreed that the mitigation plan should proceed to be reported to Performance, Assurance, Finance and Infrastructure Committee.

Mandatory discharge referral process and use of the discharge/transfer tab From today, all adult acute inpatient wards at ARI are expected to use a revised process when referring patients to the discharge hub for Aberdeenshire community hospitals and Aberdeen City and 'Shire discharge liaison teams. Referrals will now be made only through TrakCare, and the required details will be gathered from the discharge/transfer tab. To ensure this process works smoothly, everyone entering discharge information from the MDT must complete the discharge/transfer tab and complete an Order Comms referral for the discharge hub. Additional information and supporting documents have been sent directly to teams; if you have queries, please contact Chief Nurse Catriona Robbins, Alison MacAulay, acting Allied Health Professional Lead for Acute, Kay Diack Emergency Pathway Lead, or Janine Blease Operational Lead Nurse - Care Homes & Custody. Dates for drop-in sessions will be shared next week for any staff who want further information.

Correction - new mailbox for Older Adult Mental Health referrals Following the item in yesterday's brief, we have been asked to clarify the new mailbox highlighted is for Older Adult Mental Health Aberdeen City CMHTs ONLY. We apologise for any confusion.

Aberdeenshire IJB budget setting The Aberdeenshire IJB meets today to set its budget for 2026/27. The Aberdeenshire HSCP will need to make £5.7m in savings next financial year and will focus on efficiency and service redesign. The IJB will also be presented with the draft Adult Carers Strategy for approval. The strategy was developed following extensive engagement with Unpaid Carers and focuses on the key areas of support identified by them.

[The full suite of papers is available to read by following this link](#); this also contains links to watch the meeting live.

Medical staff lanyards and badge holders – change to ordering Effective immediately, there has been a change to the ordering and supply of medical staff lanyards. Under the revised process all medical staff lanyards and badge holders will be ordered directly by services via a restricted local catalogue on PECOS and paid directly from departmental budgets, in line with ordering of generic provisions for your department. This approach also provides additional governance, financial oversight and ensures improved control around provision of stock. Please contact gram.inductionbadges@nhs.scot with any questions or to gain access to the PECOS catalogue.

The use of colour coded lanyards and badge holders helps identify the level of competence and all medical staff are required to have a different coloured lanyard and name badge holder to ensure that they are easily recognisable to other staff, patients, and members of the public, as recommended by the GMC.

Infection Prevention & Control (IPC) - on the move The IPC Team are re-locating on Thursday 19 and Friday 20 March. The team's new bases will be Foresterhill Lea, Foresterhill House and the Labs Annex. During this time, for urgent issues, we can be contacted via the Clinical Advice Line on ext 53249 or by email using the generic email of gram.infectioncontrol@nhs.scot where your urgent query will be directed to the relevant IPCN.

For non-urgent matters, we will respond as soon as possible.

National Child Exploitation Day- today The Public Protection Team are using this annual event to highlight the issues surrounding child exploitation in communities; for 2026 we are encouraging everyone to think, spot, and speak out against abuse and adopt a zero tolerance to child exploitation.

Child exploitation is a form of abuse involving the manipulation and/or coercion of children or young people under the age of 18. Signs children or young people may be being groomed for exploitation, or are being exploited, can include being more secretive or withdrawn than usual or a young person who is suddenly using multiple mobile phones or receiving unusually large numbers of texts or calls. [Follow this link for more information.](#)

Child exploitation is a hidden crime, and professionals play a crucial role in identifying and preventing harm. Check out our [Grampian Guidance Public Protection resources](#) and search 'abuse resources' on [Turas training](#).

MedWatch – March edition The latest edition of the MedWatch newsletter is out now [and available to read via this link.](#)

Wellbeing, Culture, and Development Wednesday

- **International Day of Happiness – this Friday** Working in healthcare asks a lot from each of us, and yet you continue to show care, compassion, and strength every day. As we mark International Day of Happiness, may you find a moment to connect with what lifts you, supports you, and brings you a sense of warmth or ease. Thank you for the difference you make, and for the happiness you help create in the lives of others. Want to know more about the event? [Follow this link for more details.](#)
- **Coaching Skills for Managers Programme** There are still places available on cohorts starting in April and May. If you are a manager who wants to adopt a coaching approach in everyday conversations [follow this Turas link \(log-in required\)](#) for full details and a link to the application form.

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 Dr Craig Hewitt of Garthdee Medical Group is about to put the cat right among the pigeons with his cover version request; a lifelong Metallica fan, he thinks Elton John and Miley Cyrus' take on [Nothing Else Matters](#) is better than the original...(it's too close to call for me).

Carol Waters, part of the secretarial team at ARI, makes our second covers suggestion, putting forward The Mission's interpretation of Neil Young's [Like A Hurricane](#) (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