

Daily Brief...



Thursday 20 August 2026

Financial management and budget holder responsibilities Budget management is devolved to designated budget holders across the organisation. To support them, monthly statements are issued through the BOXI system, providing visibility of financial performance and enabling proactive management of budgets throughout the year. We would encourage all budget holders to ensure they are reviewing these statements and considering actions to manage financial positions monthly. Effective financial management, ensuring value for money, and maintaining robust control over expenditure are key components of our financial recovery and long-term sustainability.

A range of guidance, resources and tools to support Budget Holders is available [via this link to the Finance intranet page](#). In addition, a training session will take place on Tuesday 1 September, 2-3.30pm, in the Suttie Centre. Further sessions are planned for later in the year; to book your place, please email grant.burt@nhs.scot. Enhanced budget statements are also set to be introduced later in the year.

Potential disruption during migration of local IT systems The Digital Directorate will be carrying out the migration of locally hosted servers and systems next week (w/c 24 August). While this work has been planned to minimise disruption, you may notice some brief service interruptions. As per good practice, please ensure you save your work regularly. If any issues are experienced, please wait a few moments and try again. In the unexpected eventuality that issues persist for a longer period, please try rebooting your computer. If problems continue, please log a call with the IT service desk, [using the online portal in the first instance, via this link](#), or on extension 54444 (01224 554444).

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
Continued pressure remains across scheduled and unscheduled care, with current trajectories showing improvement but not yet reaching the desired level by year end. Further work is required to reduce hospital occupancy,	Further development of planned care and unscheduled care trajectories was commissioned, including stronger modelling, seasonality analysis, activity impacts and wider engagement with Scottish Government, the NHS Grampian Board and the Assurance Board was an agreed next step.

improve patient flow and maximise the impact of operational improvement activity. • Infrastructure, estate and equipment pressures continue to present risks to service delivery. Additional work will quantify impacts, identify mitigation actions and strengthen planning for future investment priorities. • Risks relating to the sustainability of some primary care and out-of-hours services and the need to maintain safe, sustainable services within available resources, were discussed and further consideration will be given to these matters. • Demonstrating sustained improvement in performance, quality and safety remains a key priority, with NHS Grampian continuing to work closely with Scottish Government, Healthcare Improvement Scotland and Public Services Delivery Scotland through ongoing assurance and improvement arrangements.	• Follow-up communications will be issued regarding recruitment controls which apply to all Health Boards in Scotland for Executive Level roles and organisational expectations to support awareness.
Positive Assurances to Provide	Decisions made
• Significant progress has been made in the completion of iMatter Action Plans (72% achieved versus 70% target), with work continuing to ensure that staff feedback is translated into change and improvement across the organisation. • Progress was reported in delivering the ligature reduction programme on Ward 4 at Dr Gray's Hospital, supported by established governance arrangements, ongoing staff and stakeholder engagement, and constructive partnership working across services. • Seven NHS Grampian applications have been approved through the Scottish Government's Invest to Save scheme, providing investment to support improvements in clinical services, innovation and patient care pathways.	• Agreement was reached to continue refining trajectory and improvement plans before wider engagement, as outlined above. • It was agreed that further work is required to assess the impact of infrastructure and estate constraints on service delivery and to inform future investment and strategic planning priorities.

Breathing Space information session Breathing Space is a confidential phone line for anyone aged 16 and over in Scotland who is feeling low, anxious, or depressed. Delivered by NHS 24, Breathing Space also offers a confidential webchat function. If you would like to learn more about the service, so you have the confidence to share it with colleagues, relatives, and patients or clients, why not come along to an online information session on Tuesday 1 September. Taking place between 1-2pm and supported by our Health Workplace team, you'll be guided through the support they offer. To book your slot, simply email gram.hwl@nhs.scot

Fundamentals of Skilled Practice in Dementia training Health and social care staff are invited to attend the Fundamentals of Skilled Practice in Dementia training programme on 18 & 19 November 2026 at the Aberdeen Dental Education Centre. The two-day programme is designed for staff who are new to dementia care or have had limited previous dementia education, helping participants develop the knowledge and skills needed to deliver high-quality, person-centred dementia care. [Follow this link for further information.](#)

Book Blether returns for 26/27 Love books? Looking to discover something new? Join Book Blether, our friendly reading community. Reading can offer a chance to unwind, reflect, and see things from a different perspective. Our first discussion of the 2026-27 season takes place at 1pm on Thursday 3 September. You can join live discussions or engage with recommendations and activities at a time that suits you. Email cornhill.library@nhs.scot for a joining link [and follow this link for ways to take part](#) during the National Year of Reading.

Tune of the day Time for some more colour tunes...Megan Young, risk management nurse for women's services, was in London last month to see My Chemical Romance. To ease those post-concert blues (pun intended) here's [Welcome To The Black Parade.](#)

Same theme, very different vibe, courtesy of Joanne Grant, who's asked for [Colourblind](#) by Darius (sadly no longer with us), dedicated to former office partner-in-crime, Bev Presly. Every time this absolute banger came on the radio, they'd be transported straight back to the noughties. They may be older and wiser now, but this tune still makes them feel twenty-something!

Finally, it's best wishes to Lisa Purves, from your colleagues in pharmacy and Ward 102 at ARI, as you start a new post with the audiology team. They know you're going to smash it, and you will be very much missed. Lisa is partial to a bit of Calvin Harris, so here he is with Tom Grennan and [By Your Side](#) (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