

Daily Brief...

Thursday 24 September 2026

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
- Planned Care challenges continue to affect waiting times. These include infrastructure constraints, workforce pressures, and reduced available capacity in some services. Work is under way to address these issues and improve access for patients. - Emergency pressures at Dr Gray's Hospital remain a concern ahead of winter. Senior leaders from across health and social care will consider immediate actions alongside the longer-term work to strengthen resilience.	- Scotland East (external support) has reviewed Planned Care services, focusing on demand and capacity, workforce, infrastructure, productivity and governance. Findings are being incorporated into a co-ordinated recovery plan. - Work has been accelerated to strengthen Planned Care improvement activity, including additional dermatology and urology capacity, weekend theatre sessions, and development of a single integrated recovery plan. - Winter planning is progressing through a resilience-based approach, with service workshops, system stress testing and detailed local planning taking place over the coming weeks. - The Unscheduled Care September Sprint is continuing, with a focus on helping patients move through hospital safely, improving discharge arrangements and reducing long waits in emergency care. Learning is being captured to help make these improvements part of routine practice. - An integrated workforce planning approach is being developed to better align workforce, service and financial planning and support a sustainable workforce for the future.

Positive Assurances to Provide	Decisions made
• More than 200 colleagues attended the first staff briefing on National Reform (Programme for Government). The session provided an opportunity to share what is currently known, be clear about what remains uncertain, and communicate openly with staff and provide a forum for questions. • The Scotland East Cancer Workshop was well attended, bringing Boards together to share learning, identify challenges, and explore opportunities for improvement across the region. • Early outcomes from the Unscheduled Care September Sprint are encouraging, with improved ambulance turnaround times, fewer prolonged waits in emergency care and ARI recording its strongest emergency access performance in 14 months. • New dermatology service has received 400 referrals for long-waiting patients, with 100 patients already booked into the first two clinics. This is expected to reduce the number of patients experiencing the longest waits.	• The Winter Plan was approved for onward submission to the Board, subject to final refinements and further stress-testing work before finalisation. • The updated Standing Financial Instructions and Schedule of Reserved Decisions were approved for progression to the Audit and Risk Committee and, subsequently, the Board. • Further work was commissioned on proposals for a request for additional support from Scotland East to reduce complaints and significant adverse event review backlogs before submitting the request for support.

Invest to Save scheme – open for bids Earlier this year Scottish Government opened an Invest to Save scheme, providing small amounts of funding upfront, to enable work which will lead to long term savings. We were fortunate enough to receive a total of £1.22M, across 7 projects. Following this success, we have opened a local Invest to Save scheme. If you have an idea, which requires a modest amount of funding upfront, but will realise savings in the long run, then we want to hear from you. To start with, [all you need to do is fill in the form available at this link](#). We only need an outline at this stage; submissions will be reviewed weekly and, if they have potential, you will then be asked to complete a more rigorous bid application. We look forward to hearing from you!

Intraosseous access workshop – 5 October This course is aimed at clinical colleagues who would be inserting intraosseous devices. Participants will develop the knowledge and skills to landmark, insert, maintain, and remove intraosseous (IO) needles with a hands-on practical session. The course will be held on Monday 5 October 9am-12.30pm at The Suttie Centre. Further information can be found [via this Turas link](#), or you can contact gram.resustraining@nhs.scot to book.

Aberdeenshire pop-up carers events Aberdeenshire HSCP and Aberdeenshire Carer Support Service (VSA) will be in RACH main reception today (Thursday) between 10am and 2pm and at ARI healthpoint tomorrow (Friday) between 10am to 12noon. Unpaid carers and professionals alike are invited to drop in to learn what support is available locally, speak to staff, and find out about carers' rights. VSA provide a Carer Support Service for Aberdeenshire Adult Carers and Young Carers. [For more, including online Carer Referral Form, please follow this link](#), email carers.shire@vsa.org.uk, or telephone 01224 727670. For more information on carer support in Aberdeenshire, email carerssupport@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Book Blether is Poetry Blether on National Poetry Day. Looking for a mindful lunchtime break? Join us at 1pm next Thursday (1 October) for a Poetry Blether. Through listening, conversation and a little creative writing, we'll explore poems inspired by wonder, in the world around us. No preparation or prior experience required but a pen and paper to hand would be great. Email cornhill.library@nhs.scot for a joining link and [follow this link for more information](#).

Tune of the day Our first request today comes from Martin Urquhart, deputy service manager in Acute. He's off to Paris, the lucky so and so, to see the incomparable Celine Dion (even luckier!) at her already triumphant return to the stage, so to get him primed and ready, he's asked for [That's The Way It Is](#).

Up second, I'm passing over to Suzi Brown in the pathology team: *"Today, we say a very fond farewell to Wendy Leaper as she finishes her last working day ahead of her early retirement, effective from 1 October. Wendy has quite simply been the backbone of our department throughout her Laboratory Manager career. Her dedication, support and commitment over the years have meant a huge amount to the department and to all of us who have had the pleasure of working alongside her.*

"While we are very sorry to see her go, we couldn't let her escape without wishing her the longest, happiest and healthiest of retirements. Wendy, thank you for everything you have done for the department over the years. You will be very much missed, but we hope retirement brings you lots of happiness, relaxation and exciting new adventures. From all of us, enjoy every minute. You've earned it! And, of course, we couldn't send Wendy off without a song... [Waterloo by ABBA](#)" (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.dailybrief@nhs.scot