

Daily Brief...



Thursday 6 August 2026

Smoking/vaping on site Smoking and/or vaping is not permitted in any of our buildings, on any of our sites, or in any NHS vehicle. In addition, it is an offence for anyone to smoke within 15 metres of a hospital building in Scotland. Anyone who does so may receive a Fixed Penalty Notice. Signage is in place across all buildings to remind all site users of this rule.

Support is available, free of charge, to help you quit smoking. [Further information is available via this link](#) to the NHS Grampian website.

Peer to Peer Vaccination 2026/27 – expression of interest As we get ready for this year's 'flu vaccination programme, we are once again seeking peer vaccinators. Your feedback has told us you want vaccination to be as straightforward as possible; peer vaccinators play their part by ensuring local colleagues get their jab. 'Flu is a serious illness and NHS staff are at increased risk of exposure. Getting vaccinated protects you, your team, the people you care for, as well as your wider family and friends. If you are interested in delivering 'flu vaccinations as part of the programme this year, [complete the form available via this link](#).

A training package has been developed to support participating vaccinators and takes a maximum of 3 hours to complete. If you have any questions, please contact gram.peertopeervaccs@nhs.scot

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
Ongoing infrastructure challenges across multiple sites, including theatre ventilation, endoscopy facilities and other clinical environments, are affecting operational capacity and putting delivery of planned care trajectories for 2026/27 at risk. A consolidated overview of current and emerging infrastructure risks, performance impacts, mitigation actions	Work is progressing to strengthen delivery of planned and unscheduled care improvement programmes, including development of additional delivery support (for planned care), establishment of improvement governance groups (Scotland East for planned care) and clearer accountability arrangements to support sustainable change and

and investment requirements has been commissioned to support prioritisation and decision-making. • Endoscopy services are operating with significantly reduced decontamination capacity, requiring prioritisation of urgent and emergency activity. Mitigation measures are being progressed, including infrastructure improvements and use of available capacity across Grampian, recognising the need to minimise impacts on agreed waiting times trajectories and patient access. • Emergency care performance remains under pressure, with workforce absence and staffing fragility affecting service resilience. Continued focus is required on actively managing discharge in line with Discharge Without Delay principles and early discharge planning on admission of patients, patient flow and safe service delivery while longer-term workforce solutions are progressed. • A programme of work will be developed to improve the management of employee relations casework, including stronger case triage, clearer governance, improved reporting and increased training and support. It was agreed to escalate this matter and mitigations to the Staff Governance Committee.	performance improvement (planned care and unscheduled care). • Detailed implementation work continues on expansion of frailty services, including workforce recruitment, estate changes and development of an integrated model with health and social care partners to support improved patient pathways and system flow. • Clinical governance arrangements are being strengthened across acute services, with new reporting structures, data reviews and escalation processes designed to improve visibility of quality, safety and risk and support timely action where concerns are identified.
Positive Assurances to Provide	Decisions made
• The final draft of the East and West national transformation plan for urgent care was submitted to Scottish Government, with NHS Grampian making a significant contribution, including on population health aspects of the plan, which is threaded through the document. • Recruitment processes have launched for key East regional planned care and unscheduled care leadership posts, supporting development of sub-national working arrangements.	• Approval in principle was given to progress procurement and governance arrangements for additional planned care delivery support, subject to final checks and controls, to strengthen programme delivery and improvement capacity. • It was agreed that proposed de-escalation criteria for planned and unscheduled care require further development before engagement with the Assurance Board, with engagement with the NHS Grampian Board to happen first.

• Quarter 1 planned care delivery commitments funded during the period were achieved, with activity delivered in line with agreed plans. • Scottish Government funding for frailty expansion has now been confirmed, supporting the next phase of implementation.	• Support was agreed in principle to progress investment in employee relations casework improvement. • It was agreed to implement a review process for historical medical additional payment concerns, alongside further work to strengthen governance, controls and consistency in future arrangements.
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Getting Bereavement Right Every Time – learning event Taking place on Wednesday 9 September, this online learning event is aimed at all health and social care staff, including non-clinical and support roles. It introduces grief and bereavement, helping staff feel more confident when supporting bereaved families, patients, people using services, and colleagues. The session will cover common concerns such as what to say, what language to use, and how to manage the emotional impact of bereavement in the workplace. For further information and to register, [please follow this link](#).

Research and Development update A questionnaire study on taking care of your health while living with or beyond cancer, led by Dr Leslie Samuel, has recruited 1916 participants, narrowly missing an ambitious target of 2000. Our cancer team also recruited the first Scottish patient to the FORTIFI-HN01 study on whether an investigational medication given in combination with an immunotherapy (pembrolizumab) can stop or slow recurrent or metastatic head and neck squamous cell cancer. [For more on this study, follow this link](#).

Tune of the day Many happy returns to the one and only Geri Halliwell, born on this day in 1972. In celebration, here's my personal favourite from the Spice Girls, [Viva Forever](#) (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