

Tuesday 7 April 2026

Priorities for Delivery 2026/27 Today we launch our Priorities for Delivery 2026/27. As an organisation, we've made significant progress over the last 12 months, evidenced by improved operational and financial performance. Our priorities for 2026/27, developed with patients, partners, staff, and the communities we serve, were approved by the board when they met last month. Our chief executive, Laura Skaife-Knight, has written an introduction to the priorities, [which you can read in full via this link](#).

As a reminder, the first priorities briefing session will take place today at 12noon. No booking required, [simply follow this Teams link to join the session](#). There is a second briefing planned on Tuesday 14 March; if you are unable to attend, please be assured both sessions will be recorded and shared via this brief.

Intranet migration and switch-off of old site Following previous updates, we can confirm the "old" intranet is due to be switched off after a huge effort by the migration team and webmasters across the organisation. This will only affect sites not migrated onto SharePoint Online. The switch off will be in 2 stages:

- 14 April at 1.30pm – all access will be switched off but content will still be available by contacting the migration team via gram.web@nhs.scot
- 28 April at 1.30pm – SharePoint 2007 will be switched off. Any remaining content will be lost on switch off and will not be recoverable.

Owners of sites not migrated but wishing to retain their content and documents **must** act before 14 April.

Reduced Working Week – two updates

- **Retention of Part Time Hours/eESS updates** The eESS system is now available to use for all changes to staff records. Information captured from the MS Forms set up to advise of staff retaining hours is still being worked through. As such, the hours currently sitting in eESS, ePayroll and SSTS may still have updates to be applied. This work will be completed in the coming days for eESS and ePayroll and the following week for SSTS. Once updates have been applied managers will be advised to go in and check the contracted hours for staff.
- **2026/27 annual leave and public holidays** Going forward, all leave for Agenda for Change staff should be calculated based on a 36-hour working week (pro-rata). The NHS Scotland [annual leave calculator is available via this link](#). For further guidance please visit the dedicated Reduced Working Week [intranet page by following this link](#).

New guidance – managing patients with problematic drug use The drug and alcohol service are pleased to share new guidance, developed in partnership with inpatient teams. It is focussed on supporting people who use drugs when they are admitted to hospitals for any reason. The guidance is [available to read via this intranet link](#).

Foundation Apprenticeships - building a skilled, future-ready workforce We want to celebrate the success and growing impact of Foundation Apprenticeships (FAs) in strengthening the region's future health and social care workforce. As Scotland experiences increasing workforce pressures and skills shortages, FAs are emerging as a critical pathway for developing talented, motivated young people who are ready to step into essential NHS roles.

FAs give senior-phase pupils the opportunity to achieve nationally recognised qualifications—equivalent to a Higher—while gaining hands-on workplace experience in real NHS settings. This powerful combination bridges the gap between education and employment, helping young people make informed career choices while contributing meaningfully to patient care. If your team can participate or would like to discuss how to get involved, please contact gram.apprenticeships@nhs.scot

AHP monthly journal club Join your fellow AHPs each month to read and discuss relevant papers, share insights, and build a supportive research active community. The club meets on Teams, between 4-4.45pm. No need to book, [just follow this joining link](#). The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 21 April and discuss the article available at the following link: [Telehealth-Delivered Allied Health Interventions: A Rapid Umbrella Review of Systematic Reviews](#)

NHS Grampian Charity Did you know NHS Grampian Charity supports the staff physiotherapy service? This fantastic service provides musculoskeletal physiotherapy advice, assessment, and treatment to support those with work-related issues, and to support you to have a good level of health and wellbeing at work. The team regularly speak to departments across Grampian to promote physical wellbeing and healthy movement. If this is something your team might benefit from, please contact gram.ohsphysio@nhs.scot to discuss.

Tune of the day A lovely message has come in from Ada Robb, health visitor in Oldmeldrum: *“Today, our much-loved health visiting colleague, Jill Chalmers, marks 40 years since she started her children's nurse training and began her career working for NHS Grampian. It is also 25 years since she has been working as a health visitor in Oldmeldrum Health Centre. Could we request Skipinnish and [Alive](#), so we can have a little jig in the office to mark Jill's special achievements. Well done Jill, we are so proud of you!”*

Squeezing an extra mention for Tracey Cruickshank, who hits the big 4-0 today. Everyone in the oncology research team wishes you a very happy birthday; they've requested Cliff Richard 'assisted' by The Young Ones and [Living Doll](#), which topped the charts when Tracey was born (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