

Friday 9 October 2026

Chair's blog The board of NHS Grampian met yesterday. It was Alison Evison's final meeting in the Chair, as her term of office comes to an end. She has written her usual board report, which also includes her opening remarks to yesterday's meeting. [You can read this for yourself via this link.](#)

We want to take this opportunity to thank Alison for everything she has done during her four years as Chair and to wish her all the very best for the future. Prof John Connaghan will take up the post of interim for at least the next six months, and we look forward to welcoming him to Grampian.

As noted in Alison's report, yesterday was also the final board meeting for non-executive members Joyce Duncan and Sandy Riddell. Thanks go to them for their contribution during their time in office.

2026 Magnet and Pathway Conference – register for free livestream This annual nursing conference takes place in Chicago, 29-31 October. This year's event is a very special one for NHS Grampian, as our Pathway to Excellence® (mental health and learning disability service) and Magnet® designation (RACH) will be officially conferred. You can register for a free livestream of this event and three inspiring keynote speaker sessions, on the Thursday, Friday and Saturday, including Riaz Meghji on human connection and leadership, and Jesse Israel on unleashing true potential. [Follow this link to sign up.](#)

Introduction to sexual health course Grampian Sexual and Reproductive Health Service are holding their twice-yearly Introduction to Sexual Health course on Friday 30 October. It's an online training session, running from 9am-12pm. The event is aimed at health care professionals working in both primary and secondary care settings, and would interest general practitioners, practice nurses, advance nurse practitioners, midwives, paramedics, pharmacists, physician associates and trainees.

The content includes contraceptive counselling, introduction to contraceptive methods, emergency contraception, sexual health assessment, young person's assessment and abortion care. The course costs £15; [information on booking and payment is available on Turas via this link](#) (log-in required). For general enquiries, please contact gram.srhtraining@nhs.scot

Volunteers required - 'flu treatment study We are looking for adult volunteers for a randomised clinical trial of an investigational treatment to prevent influenza infection. Eligibility depends on being at higher risk of influenza (e.g. those with chronic lung, heart or kidney conditions and people who are immunocompromised). The investigational treatment is designed to offer additional protection over vaccination, so those who have already received their flu vaccine this season are still eligible. If you would like to know more, or to receive a full Participant Information Leaflet, please email gram.influenza.trial@nhs.scot

On My Way – a picture of children’s health rights across Scotland This report, from Children’s Health Scotland, brings together the views and experiences of children and young people, parents and carers, health professionals, and education professionals from across Scotland. It provides an important insight into children's awareness and experience of their health rights, highlighting more children are becoming aware of their rights but many are not consistently experiencing them in practice. You can [read the report in full by following this link](#).

ICYMI - Bringing conferences to Aberdeen A new joint taskforce, involving colleagues from Aberdeen's two universities and ourselves, is looking at ways of attracting more national and international academic conferences to the city. Please follow this link [Academic Conferences in Aberdeen](#) allowing the team to understand more about the barriers to hosting conferences in the region. All respondents will be entered into a prize draw to win two tickets to Kevin Bridges at P&J Live on Friday 11 December.

That was the week that was

Monday 5 – accessing patient information, efficiency protocols and where to find them

Tuesday 6 – Ask Laura – October edition, site safety and security

Wednesday 7 – NHS reform – staff info sessions, patient care after death

Thursday 8 – frailty service update, sustainability myth busting

All briefs are stored online, [just click this link](#) or visit Working with Us>HR Portal>NHSG Staff Daily Briefs on the NHS Grampian website.

STAR Award It’s a very warm ‘well done’ to Trish Duncan, housekeeper/receptionist on Ward 106a at ARI, following her recent STAR Award presentation. Trish is a much-loved member of the CCU team whose dedication, kindness, and support make a difference every day. Always welcoming, organised and willing to go above and beyond, Trish helps keep the ward running smoothly while bringing positivity and a smile to colleagues, patients and families alike. If you know a team, or individual, STAR, making a nomination couldn’t be easier. All you need to do is complete the short form [available via this link](#).

Tune of the day Lots of requests today, but it’s Friday and I’m feeling generous. First up, Banff Health Visitors are sending all their very best to colleague Laura who got married recently. They hope she had a truly wonderful day (they certainly did!) and wish her and Dayle all the very best for a happy future together. They’ve asked for [Take My Hand](#) by Skerryvore to mark the happy occasion.

All this week has been Play in Healthcare week, with this year's theme being ‘Improving patient outcomes through play’. Heather Beattie and her team of play specialists and workers do an amazing job of supporting children, young people, and families through their healthcare journey. Emma-Louise MacPherson, the AHP lead for combined child health, wants to shout out the play team and has asked for Taylor Swift and [The Best Day](#).

Craig Wren, deputy service manager in the business unit at Royal Cornhill makes two requests (told you I was feeling generous!). For World Mental Health Day (tomorrow) he’s asked for [Harder](#) by Keala Settle. The song conveys a powerful message of resilience, strength, and perseverance to keep fighting through the tough moments for anyone who is having a challenging time.

His second request goes out to his colleagues across all disciplines within our Mental Health Services: [Rescue](#) by Lauren Daigle. There is always help available and the song reinforces the idea that someone is always there to support and care for you which his colleagues endeavour to do day in day out.

Have a weekend, folks. You've earned it. Extra shout out to the parents and carers among you as the schools shut up shop for the tattie holidays...(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