



Chief Executive's Report 5 October 2023 Board Meeting

Dr Adam Coldwells, Deputy Chief Executive



Purpose of this report

This report updates Board members on priority issues since the last Board meeting which are not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

1. Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC)

As reported to the Board in August 2023, survey work continues across the NHS Scotland estate to determine if there is remedial work required to remove a risk caused by the presence of RAAC in buildings. There are some concerns about its durability, especially if it sustains water damage or if there were problems with its original fabrication.

NHS Grampian's Property and Asset Development team undertook a desktop exercise to identify all buildings that were built between the period 1950s-mid 1990s which had a flat roof. That identified 54 buildings/part of buildings which fitted the criteria, and for which we had no detailed design to know what the roof was constructed of.

All 54 buildings have now been surveyed. We await the final detailed surveyed reports but we are pleased to say we have already had informal confirmation that RAAC is not present in many of them. We do know RAAC is present in the Labs building at Foresterhill; this was already known and measures are in place to mitigate any risks there. RAAC was also identified within Denburn Medical Centre. Given we already had plans in place to vacate this building and provide accommodation for Newburn Medical Group within Carden Place, these plans were expedited and the practice moved on 20/21 September 2023.

The NHS Grampian public website now has a dedicated RAAC page [NHS Scotland Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete \(RAAC\) Survey Programme \(nhsgrampian.org\)](https://www.nhs.uk/scotland/reinforced-autoclaved-aerated-concrete-raac-survey-programme). This lists all the buildings/parts of buildings which were surveyed, along with an FAQ document and recordings of the two drop-in sessions held for all staff. As we receive formal survey reports, these pages will be updated accordingly.

2. Ministerial visits

NHS Grampian was delighted to host both Michael Matheson, the Cabinet Secretary for NHS Recovery, Health and Social Care, and Jenni Minto, Minister for Public Health, Sport and Wellbeing, on separate visits in August, which provided opportunities to highlight a diverse range of innovative projects.

Mr Matheson spent time at Woodend Hospital meeting specialist rehabilitation colleagues and the orthopaedic surgical team. He heard from teams about our integrated approach to rehabilitation for patients who have come through the Major Trauma pathway and met the team using robotics for hip replacement surgery. It was a great opportunity to highlight our ambition and innovative approach, and colleagues appreciated the time he spent with them.

Ms Minto was hosted by SHMU (Station House Media Unit) meeting a group of parents who have had a child permanently removed from their care. They are part of a joint NHS Grampian/Aberdeen City Council project to better understand their lived experience, to maximise the impact their voice can have in shaping early intervention, prevention, trauma awareness, and long-term support with a view to breaking the cycle and enabling more families to stay together safely. She then visited the Aberdeen Breast Centre to speak to colleagues involved in the breast screening programme and hear about the Artificial Intelligence (AI) project to detect additional cancers. Ms Minto also paid a visit to the Maternity Unit at Dr Gray's Hospital to hear about progress implementing the Moray Maternity Plan and launch the NHS Grampian Maternity Charter (more below).

3. Grampian Maternity Charter

Jenni Minto launched the Maternity Charter during her visit to Dr Gray's Hospital on 22 August 2023. The charter draws on the National Charter of Patient Rights and Responsibilities. It was developed in collaboration with members of the Grampian Maternity Voices Partnership and Latnem, community groups focussed on developing local maternity care and supporting birthing mothers and families.

The Charter sets out what people using our maternity services across Grampian have the right to: services appropriate to their needs; to be involved in decisions about their care; to expect confidentiality; to be treated with dignity and respect; to have safe, effective and compassionate care. Our aim is to support the whole family including partners / birthing partners, baby, parents, carers and siblings.

The Charter can be accessed here [Maternity Charter – Birth in Grampian \(scot.nhs.uk\)](https://www.scot.nhs.uk/maternity-charter-birth-in-grampian)

4. Foresterhill staff car parking

A staff survey looking at future options for managing staff car parking at Foresterhill Health Campus ran for four weeks during August/September 2023. There were more than 2,000 responses, including over 1,000 very detailed pieces of feedback and work is now underway to analyse those responses. The concerns of staff are foremost in our minds as we work to develop long-term, equitable, plans to manage car parking across the site. The temporary change, permitting staff use of the multi-storey car park, remains in place and it has always been the case that the facility is open to them if coming to the site as a patient or visitor.

5. System pressures and impact on colleagues

The Board generally considers the How Are We Doing performance report at each meeting. This is compiled using data gathered for Scottish Government performance reporting against the targets set out in our Delivery Plan. However, the Scottish Government reporting cycle for Q1 and Q2 of the 2023-2026 Delivery Plan has not aligned with this Board reporting cycle because reports are required by the end of October, so the December 2023 meeting will receive the HAWD report covering both quarters. Broadly, performance against the access targets (waiting times, 4 hour ED performance and cancer performance) has remained steady with previous quarters but there has been increased pressure in unscheduled care, which has been most acutely felt in the Emergency Departments (ED).

The Board are aware that there was media interest in the position of ED and NHS Grampian received an inquiry from Health Improvement Scotland seeking assurance about the Board's response to the issues raised. In order to provide assurance to the Board about the actions being taken to manage the situation, a joint meeting of the Staff Governance and Clinical Governance Committees was held in September 2023 to review clinical safety data for emergency care and to hear lived experience from ED colleagues. The committees acknowledged that the data shows that the quality and safety of care within the EDs at ARI and Dr Gray's Hospital are in line with other NHS Scotland health boards but also heard that the individual lived experience of colleagues was very challenging and considered some of the wider systemic context for this.

We hear loud and clear that colleagues need to see action on the very complex problems and we will do all we can to advocate for faster systemic change at a national level alongside our local improvement plans. We will continue to emphasise that change is essential to improve the experience and wellbeing of both our colleagues and patients.

Dr Adam Coldwells, Deputy Chief Executive
27 September 2023