

Minute of Area Clinical Forum
on Wednesday 4th March 2026 at 15.00
by Microsoft Teams

Present

Mark Burrell	ACF Chair and Chair, Area Dental Committee
Fiona Campbell	Chair, GAAPAC
Lynne Davidson	Chair, APC
Linda Downie	Chair, GP Sub-Committee
Vicki Locke	Vice Chair, AHPAC
Robert Lockhart	ACF Vice Chair and Chair, Area Medical Committee
Carole Noble	Chair, AHPAC
Sarah O'Bierne	Vice Chair, APC
Sonja Wright	Vice Chair, Healthcare Scientists Forum

Attending

Richard Caie	Public Representative
Joyce Duncan	Non-Executive Board Member, NHSG
Alison Evison	Chair, NHS Grampian Board
Paul Southworth	Consultant in Public Health
Else Smaaskjaer	Senior Administrator (Minute)

Item	Subject	Action
1	Welcome and Introduction Mr Burrell chaired the meeting and welcomed all those attending, apologies were noted. He confirmed that the meeting would be shorter than usual and focus on updates from advisory committees.	
2	Note of Meeting on 14th January 2026 The minute was approved as an accurate record and noted that all the actions included had been completed.	
3	Matters Arising None.	
4	Updates Public Health Report 04.02 PH Report to ACF 04.03.26.docx Circulated prior to the meeting. Paul Southworth highlighted that the first measles case in Grampian in over a decade had been confirmed. There had also been a confirmed case elsewhere in Scotland but no link between the cases identified. NHS Grampian Health Protection Team had completed contact tracing and provided advice to all those at potential risk.	

Key points highlighted:

- Work will continue to encourage uptake of vaccinations and this could be included in the context of other childhood vaccination schedules.
- Noted that there should also be consideration of the potential impact on staff with updated guidance on exclusion from work, when necessary.
- It would be useful to have protocols in Primary Care on where any patients with suspected measles should be directed to try and avoid community spread.
- Forum members reported different experiences in confirming their vaccination status. It would be helpful to have confirmation from OHS if the process for monitoring and updating staff vaccination is active and regularly reviewed.

There was some discussion noting the increasing number of children not reaching developmental milestones. For 4-5 year olds this had reached 18.3% with an underlying concern, in comparison to 2.6% pre-pandemic. Acknowledged that the pandemic had an adverse effect on a number of children but unclear why the number had not gone back down again after that. It was confirmed that Speech and Language Therapy and Early Learning colleagues are looking into possible reasons behind this, but there is nothing to suggest that this is due to changes in reporting.

Update from National ACF Chairs

[04.01 Area Clinical Forum Report.docx](#)

Mr Burrell provided an update from a recent national ACF Chairs meeting. Discussions had highlighted that in Grampian the ACF is a strong group, with good representation from across the clinical advisory structure and effective links with the Executive Team and the Board.

Smaller boards had reported difficulty in engaging with their medical communities and there was some surprise that some which have an ACF do not have an Area Medical Committee. AMC is highlighted by the Scottish Government as a statutory committee in the guidance issued to Boards, which also outlines the responsibility on Boards to promote participation by clinicians in the work of the ACF. A common thread had been provision of support for the advisory structure. With one or two exceptions admin support is quite good in Grampian, and although Co-Pilot will be helpful in preparing notes of meetings this is not fully matured yet and it would be preferable to have admin support in place for each advisory committee.

Mr Burrell also noted the appearance of the NHSG Chair, Chief Executive and Director of Finance at the Public Accounts Committee at Holyrood and commented on how well prepared they had been.

Item	Subject	Action
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It was agreed that NHS Grampian ACF would offer support to its counterpart in Ayrshire and Arran as it begins to experience escalation to Stage 4.

The national group had expressed an interest in being more involved with the sub-national programme and it is expected that the incoming Chair, when elected, will make representation to the Scottish Government

Updates from Advisory Committees

Provided on the reporting template.

[Updates to Area Clinical Forum 04.03.26.docx](#)

Items highlighted at the meeting:

Healthcare Scientists Forum

- Meeting in February cancelled and next meeting scheduled for 28th April 2026.

APC

- A presentation on Pharmacy First Plus had highlighted the progress in extending this across community pharmacies. It is intended that newly qualified pharmacists will be prescribers which will result in increased and improved pharmacy provision across the system. Confirmed that the service can only be offered when there is an independent prescriber associated with the pharmacy available on the premises. The impact on GPs will begin to take effect when more newly qualified pharmacists and technicians progress through the required training courses.
- Successful bids had been made in relation to GLP-1s and weight management. This is mainly in relation to patients in the highest risk category.
- Feedback on how well pharmacy teams had coped during recent adverse weather conditions had been very positive.
- Recruitment drive across primary care in Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire had been successful.

GAAPAC

- Concerns noted that although there had been an increase in the number of Clinical Associate in Applied Psychology (CAAP) training positions this had not been reflected in the number of posts available in Grampian. There are also some banding issues around this and the contribution they could make to waiting lists is lost. There is a risk that staff could transfer to NHS England where it is easier to gain entry to qualify as a clinical psychologist.

It was suggested that a formal paper is agreed with the Director of Psychology which for presentation at a future meeting of ACF and then escalated to the Board.

FC

Item	Subject	Action
	AHPAC	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Had considered updated guidance issued by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). This applies to Prosthetics and Orthotics which make custom made products for patients and there needs to be assurance that these comply with guidance. The main query from AHPAC is whether the Medical Devices Group in Grampian has an oversight on this and can advise on compliance with the regulations. 	
	Carole Noble to forward recent emails to Mr Burrell who will clarify local compliance and regulatory responsibilities.	CN/MB
	GP Sub-Committee	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Had an update on the National Digital Type 2 Diabetes Remission Programme and discussed the prescribing issues in relation to the very low calorie meal replacement diets. Noted the ongoing work to update the primary and secondary care consensus document which will be taken forward in collaboration with primary care and secondary care clinicians to ensure system wide input. Discussed bid for Walk-In Centres for City, Shire and Moray. There are still some concerns regarding the sustainability of this service and the capacity of GMED to support it. It is also uncertain whether GP Practices would be able to provide the support needed. There had been positive feedback from the primary and secondary care shared learning event on 18th February 2026 and it was agreed that this will be arranged again for May/June 2026. Learning will be shared across the system through a newsletter and on the Teams channel. 	
	ADC	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dental access across Grampian is improving, with some gaps in rural areas. There is good provision in Aberdeen City. Some emergency referrals coming through SCI Gateway and there will be feedback to primary care to ensure there is familiarity with the emergency pathway. 	
	GANMAC	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No members available to attend – update provided in the report. 	
	Area Medical Committee	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No update at this meeting. 	
	Consultant Sub-Committee	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No members available to attend – update provided in the report. 	
	AOC	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No update at this meeting. 	

Item Subject

Action

9 AOCB

Mr Caie asked ACF members to inform their advisory committees about the role of the NHSG Ethics Committee and encourage participation.

Dates for 2026 Meetings (By Teams)

Wednesday 6 th May	15.00 – 17.00 by Teams
Wednesday 24 th June	15.00 – 17.00 by Teams
Wednesday 2 nd September	15.00 – 17.00 by Teams
Wednesday 4 th November	15.00 – 17.00 by Teams