

Meeting:	NHS Grampian Board
Meeting date:	13 August 2026
Item Number:	6.1
Title:	Scotland East Strategic Planning and Delivery Committee Summary Report - Quarter 1 2026/27
Responsible Executive:	Laura Skaife-Knight, Chief Executive
Report Author:	Drew McGowan, Interim Board Secretary

1 Purpose and recommendations

This is presented to the Board for:

- Endorsement

Recommendation(s)

The Board is asked to:

- Review the Scotland East Strategic Planning and Delivery Committee Summary Report for Quarter 1 2026/27.
- Note the progress being made to deliver sub-national planning arrangements across Scotland East, including the key risks, dependencies and areas requiring continued Board oversight.
- Endorse NHS Grampian's continued engagement in cross-Board collaboration, mutual aid and shared delivery models.

This report relates to:

- NHS Grampian Strategy: Plan for the Future
- Board Annual Delivery Plan
- Emerging issue
- Government policy/directive
- Other: Sub-national planning

This aligns to the following NHS Scotland quality ambition(s):

- Safe
- Effective
- Person Centred

This subject matter of this report is relevant to the mitigation of the following strategic risks (further information provided in the Risk section below) [delete all that are not relevant to this report]:

- Inability to meet population demand for Planned Care
- Significant delays in the delivery of Unscheduled Care
- Inability to effectively maintain and invest in NHS Grampian's infrastructure
- Inability to achieve the aspirations set out in Plan for the Future due to financial resource constraints and inefficiencies
- Inability to reduce demand through citizen engagement
- Insufficient change and innovation to create a system which can meet demand and deliver on our strategic intent
- Worsening health in Grampian particularly in those who experience multiple disadvantages

2 Report summary

2.1 Situation

This paper presents the Scotland East Strategic Planning and Delivery Committee Summary Report for Quarter 1 2026/27. The report provides an overview of progress, key developments and emerging risks across the Scotland East programme during the reporting period.

2.2 Background

In November 2025, the Scottish Government issued [DL\(2025\)\(25\)](#) to support the delivery of the [Health & Social Care Service Renewal Framework](#) and [Population Health Framework](#). Building on [DL\(2024\)\(08\)](#) and [DL\(2024\)\(31\)](#), and replacing the previous regional planning guidance issued under [HDL\(2004\)\(46\)](#), the guidance introduced a shift towards population-based planning and delivery across NHS Scotland.

Under the latest Director's Letter, two Sub-National Planning & Delivery Committees (SPDCs) – Scotland East and Scotland West – were established to support joint planning, delivery and financial alignment across NHS boards. Individual Boards remain responsible and accountable for the exercise of their statutory functions. NHS Grampian is participating in the Scotland East SPDC.

2.3 Assessment

The Scotland East SPDC is now established and operating under the arrangements introduced through [DL\(2025\)\(25\)](#). The attached Quarter 1 2026/27 Summary Report provides an overview of progress, key developments and emerging risks across the Scotland East programme.

2.3.1 Quality / Patient Care

The report includes updates on programmes intended to improve patient outcomes, access to services and population health.

2.3.2 Workforce

Workforce capacity remains a key dependency for delivery across a number of programme workstreams.

2.3.3 Financial

The report includes updates on financial sustainability and regional financial planning.

2.3.4 Risk Assessment / Management

There is a risk that the benefits of sub-national planning are not fully realised. To mitigate this risk, Scotland East has established governance, oversight and assurance arrangements to support collaborative planning and delivery.

2.3.5 Equality and Diversity, including health inequalities

Equality, diversity and health inequality considerations will continue to be addressed through programme development and implementation.

2.3.6 Other impacts

Not applicable.

2.3.7 Communication, involvement, engagement and consultation

The report highlights the importance of staff, stakeholder and public engagement as the programme moves into delivery.

2.3.8 Route to the Meeting

This report has been prepared through the governance arrangements established by the Scotland East SPDC and is presented to the Board to support oversight and awareness.

2.4 Recommendation(s)

The Board is asked to:

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- Note the progress being made to deliver sub-national planning arrangements across Scotland East, including the key risks, dependencies and areas requiring continued Board oversight.
- Endorse NHS Grampian's continued engagement in cross-Board collaboration, mutual aid and shared delivery models.

3 Appendix/List of appendices

The following appendix/appendices are included with this report:

- Appendix 1 - Scotland East Strategic Planning and Delivery Committee Summary Report - Quarter 1 2026/27