

## **Area Clinical Forum Report to Grampian NHS Board Meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> February 2026.**

Board Meeting 19.03.26 Open Session Item 6.1
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### **Purpose of Report**

This report updates the Grampian NHS Board on key issues arising from the Area Clinical Forum (ACF) meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2026.

### **Recommendation**

The Board is asked to be assured that the ACF is fulfilling its role as an advisory committee to the Board and Chief Executive Team. The report is of a shorter length as there were fewer items discussed at the meeting. This probably reflects more engagement of the forum at other meetings especially around the 2026/27 priorities and the joint working with GAPF.

### **National ACF Chairs Group**

As Chair I was able to update the forum on the most recent meeting of this group. At present there is no established Chair of this group and nominations are to put out for this position in the near future. As an interim I chaired the meeting and took reports from many other ACFs from other Health Boards. One thing that was very evident from the meeting was the level of engagement that NHSG ACF has with our own Board. We seem to be functioning at a better position in relation to others and indeed our clinical advisory structures are very well represented.

Of note the NACFCG would like to be more involved with the sub national programme and would be envisaged that the incoming Chair may make representation to Scottish Government regarding this

### **Updates from advisory committees**

Updates were given from all of the advisory structures and the contents of these will be available within the minutes of the meeting.

We had a very positive report from our Area Pharmaceutical Committee with significant work progressing in the Pharmacy First Plus. This showed 75% of community pharmacies offer this service and there is evidence of tight governance processes around this. There were excellent examples of how important this clinical group is as part of whole system working. There has been excellent recruitment across primary care. There has been evidence of improved engagement with Pharmacy teams in primary care now being involved in discussions they have never previously been involved in, supporting with unscheduled care bids and service provision to support care at home - expanding the roles of pharmacists in primary care, supporting patients and the wider healthcare system.

Overall a very positive report and highlights the roles of all colleagues working together in a supported environment to provide services across the whole system.

A running theme across many of the committees was the impact that the reduced working week may have come April. This was highlighted by both our colleagues in Psychology and Nursing and Midwifery.

Other key concerns from our Psychology colleagues highlighted a lack of places for Clinical Associates in Applied Psychology CAAP post qualification. Although this is being looked at nationally given the increase in waiting times for psychology services these practitioners may have unique skills that could support these services and it was acknowledged they may be lost to other areas of the country.

Our GP subcommittee provided an update on the Scottish Government Walk-in Centres initiative. There were concerns about the value and sustainability of the service, with GMED needing to prioritise their existing OOH commitments. It was not clear how much support may be able to be provided to staff the centres from general practices.

On the good news front, Dental access across the region is improving; although some gaps exist in rural areas the City was very well provided for.

### **Public Health Report**

The report to the Forum was acknowledged and recognised. This highlighted the recent confirmed case of measles and highlighted the need for increased vigilance and the importance of vaccination not only for the population but also for healthcare workers.

### **ACF and GAPF Developments**

This work is still well under way and both committees are actively involved in the consultation for 26/27 priorities. A series of meetings have been confirmed for the year for additional joint working on matters that pertain to both committees.

Overall, the Forum and advisory committees will continue to provide clinical advice in the strategic operations of NHS Grampian and tailor their agendas to reflect the priorities of the delivery plan for 26/27.

Mark Burrell

Chair ACF

March 2026.