

Meeting:	NHS Grampian Board
Meeting date:	19 March 2026
Item Number:	11
Title:	Joint Health Protection Plan 2026/28
Responsible Executive:	Shantini Paranjothy, Director of Public Health
Report Author:	Chris Littlejohn, Head of Protecting Health

1 Purpose and recommendations

This is presented to the Board for:

- Assurance
- Endorsement

Recommendations

- **Assurance** – the Board are presented with the information in this paper to provide assurance that necessary resources and arrangements are in place
- **Endorsement** – endorse the renewed Joint Health Protection Plan 2026-28

This report relates to:

- Legal requirement

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):

- Worsening health in Grampian particularly in those who experience multiple disadvantages

2 Report summary

2.1 Situation

The Joint Health Protection Plan (JHPP) 2026/28 has been drafted to replace JHPP 2024/26, in accordance with the statutory duty set out in the Public Health Etc (Scotland) Act 2008 and associated Scottish Government guidance.

2.2 Background

The Public Health Etc (Scotland) Act 2008 requires NHS Grampian to create and publish a statutory JHPP in consultation with coterminous local authorities. The Act defines the protection of public health as involving the prevention, control, and response to: infectious diseases; contamination involving biological, chemical or radioactive substances; and “other such hazards” which constitute a danger to human health. Scottish Government guidance requires the JHPP to be renewed every two years.

The JHPP 2026/28 has been written by the Grampian Joint Health Protection Coordinating Group, comprising representatives from NHS Grampian (Health Protection Team, Infection Prevention and Control Team, Medical Microbiology), Aberdeen City Council (Protective Services), Aberdeenshire Council (Protective Services), Moray Council (Environmental Health and Trading Standards), and Animal and Plant Health Agency.

2.3 Assessment

There remain multiple threats to the health of the population of Grampian from local and imported infectious diseases and a wide range of environmental hazards. The JHPP sets out the services, their range of plans, their capacity, recent incidents or exercises which have tested that capacity, and the overarching arrangements in place to coordinate shared intelligence and action between them, in relation to these threats.

The JHPP demonstrates that NHS Grampian and its coterminous local authorities, working alongside a range of national agencies, continue to have resources and arrangements in place to identify and respond to these threats.

2.3.1 Quality / Patient Care

The plan involves no changes to quality of care or services.

2.3.2 Workforce

The plan involves no new workforce arrangements.

2.3.3 Financial

The plan involves no new financial impact.

2.3.4 Risk Assessment / Management

Worsening health in Grampian particularly in those who experience multiple disadvantages.

The JHPP sets out arrangements to identify, investigate and control risks to health from communicable diseases and infectious, chemical and radiological hazards across the Grampian population.

2.3.5 Equality and Diversity, including health inequalities

An impact assessment identified no issues as a result of the JHPP.

2.3.6 Other impacts

None.

2.3.7 Communication, involvement, engagement and consultation

The Board has carried out its duties to involve and engage external stakeholders where appropriate:

The JHPP 2026-2028 was drafted by the multiagency Grampian Joint Health Protection Coordinating Group, which includes local authority protective services as statutory consultees.

2.3.8 Route to the Meeting

This has been previously considered by the following committee/group/meeting as part of its development. The committee/group/meeting has/have either supported the content, or their feedback has informed the development of the content presented in this report.

- North East Population Health Alliance, 17 February 2026
- Population Health Committee, 27 February 2026

2.4 Recommendations

- **Assurance** – the Board are presented with the information in this paper to provide assurance that necessary resources and arrangements are in place
- **Endorsement** – endorse the renewed Joint Health Protection Plan 2026-28

3 Appendix

The following appendix is included with this report:

- Appendix 1 – Joint Health Protection Plan 2026/28