

# Daily Brief...



Tuesday 18 February 2025

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**Reduced working week - reminder of current position** Last month, we advised we have yet to receive any clear guidance or instruction regarding a further reduction in the working week for Agenda for Change staff. **We want to underline that this remains the case**; we do not know if we will be expected to reduce by a further 30 minutes (pro-rata) in the next financial year, or the full 60 minutes (pro-rata). If you/your team are at the point of setting new rotas for the month ahead, please do so based on a 37-hour week for full-time AfC staff. Once we receive clear guidance and instruction from Scottish Government, we will share it via this brief.

**Service update – Domestic & Support Services** At present, due to high levels of staff absence, and system pressures, the domestic & support services team are prioritising high-risk clinical areas. This means low-risk, non-clinical areas may not receive the usual frequency of cleaning. Please be assured the team works as a collective group to prioritise areas and reallocate staff, and we appreciate your support and understanding. You can help us focus on the task at hand by refraining from multiple queries to the supervisors on lack of domestic staff in areas. Regrettably, if you work in a non-clinical area your domestic service will be very limited at present. We apologise for any inconvenience. We understand this can be frustrating and would request that domestic staff are treated with dignity and respect in line with the Zero Tolerance policy.

**National Adult Support and Protection Day 2025** National Adult Support and Protection Day is this Thursday (20 February). In the run up to this event, the [Public Protection team](#) are highlighting our role as staff in Recognising, Responding, Reporting, Recording, and Reflecting on Adult Protection concerns. Adult Protection is everybody's business and the information we'll be sharing this week is relevant not just in our work but also in [everyday life](#).

[This article \(intranet link, networked devices only\)](#) gives an overview for healthcare practitioners as to their role and responsibilities related to Adult Support and Protection. It also gives some information on the resources and services available if they think an adult is being harmed or is at risk of being harmed. All the information you need to report Adult Protection concerns is available on the [Public Protection intranet pages](#).

**Reflective practice – what it is and how it can help – training for HCSWs** NHS Education for Scotland is offering a virtual training for healthcare support workers, to introduce reflective practice and how it can benefit them. This will take place between 10-11.30am on Thursday 13 March. Registration is [via this form](#) and the deadline to sign up is Thursday 27 February.

**ANY paper ok for confidential waste** At the start of February, our contractor for confidential waste changed across the organisation. This change means we can now dispose of far more items within our confidential waste sacks, increasing our ability to recycle while at work. ANY paper items, including non-confidential, paper packaging, envelopes, newspapers and magazines can go in and will continue to be securely shredded to comply with GDPR requirements.

There's no need to worry about including staples, poly pockets, or files; these can also all be disposed of within confidential sacks and will be removed for recycling by the contractor. Like all businesses in Scotland, we have a recycling target of 70% to aim for by the end of 2025, so changes like this will help us all do a little more. Any questions? Email [neil.duncan3@nhs.scot](mailto:neil.duncan3@nhs.scot)

**Communication training – RACH** The speech and language therapy team at RACH would like to invite any staff working within the hospital to come along to our communication training session this Thursday (20 February), 11am – 12pm, Seminar room 1. The session will involve an overview of our role and discussion around effective communication strategies you can use with patients. If you are interested, please register [by completing this short form](#).

**Respiratory MCN evening roadshow – registration open** This event is scheduled to take place between 6.30-8.45pm on Tuesday 11 March at The Aberdeen Dyce Hotel. The programme will include group consultations for inhaler changes and asthma diagnosis update. You can register by completing this form: [Grampian Respiratory MCN Evening Roadshow - Tuesday 11th March](#)

We look forward to your participation and hope to see you at this valuable event.

**Tune of the day** Iconic soap EastEnders turns the big 4-0 tomorrow. A variety of stars have gone on to have musical careers, with varying degrees of success (be grateful I'm sparing you Anita Dobson's 'Anyone Can Fall In Love') but Michelle Gayle had a reasonable run of hits in the mid 90s. [Sweetness](#) is our tune of the day. Now, get outta my pub! (EP)

If you want to request a tune, follow up on items included in this brief, or suggest an item for sharing, drop us an email via [gram.communications@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.communications@nhs.scot)