

Monday 3 March 2025

**Agenda for Change Programme Board update** Work to implement the Reduced Working Week, the Band 5 Nursing Review and review Protected Learning Time continues, with representatives from across the organisation meeting regularly to discuss progress and share feedback from staff.

As per the Daily Brief on 20 February, boards have been instructed to implement a reduction of 60 minutes (pro rata) to the working week from 1 April 2026. An implementation plan should be completed and agreed locally by Health Boards in partnership forums by 1 October 2025. [You can read the circular for yourself here.](#) Agreeing our approach to this will be a focus for the Programme Board in the coming weeks.

Interim Chief Executive Adam Coldwells picked up on the Band 5 Nursing Review in a recent episode of [Ask Adam](#). Staff are reminded that there is no closing date for this review. Following further training, job evaluation panels are increasing and will be able to progress through applications more quickly in the coming months.

**Consultation opens on 'Once for Scotland' Workforce Policies** There is a national programme of work reviewing existing workforce policies with the aim to promote NHS Scotland as a modern, exemplar employer with consistent employment policy and practice. The next review phase includes the following policies: Alcohol and Other Substances; Smoking and Vaping; Work-related Stress; Work-related Violence and Aggression; Work-related Driving; Manual Handling; Lone Working; Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH); Menopause and Menstrual Health and Adverse Weather.

Full information on the policies is available in the [consultation paper](#) (intranet link, networked devices only). Your views will shape the final policies. The consultation is open until 17 March; you can give your feedback here: [NHS Scotland Once for Scotland Workforce Policies 2025](#)

**'Flu vaccination – the clock is ticking** All NHS staff, regardless of role, and social care staff with direct patient/client contact, are eligible for a free 'flu vaccination, but the programme will **close** on 31 March. If you haven't had the jab yet, it is not too late. You do not need to make an appointment; you can walk into any of the vaccination centres in Grampian; including Airyhall and Bridge of Don. Details on locations and opening hours are available here: [Centres | Vax Grampian](#)

**Change of phone number for City Adult Community Learning Disabilities** The main number for contacting this service, based at Len Ironside Centre in Mastrick, has changed to 01224 070073. To support with the transition, anyone contacting the old number over the next month will be greeted with a message informing them of the change, requesting that they hang up and redial the new number. Please ensure you update any local contact lists you may have.

**REMINDER: Results from Point of Care devices unavailable tomorrow** Due to a scheduled server upgrade, results from several Point of Care devices will be unavailable within the electronic patient record (EPR) for approximately 4 hours (10am-2pm) tomorrow (Tuesday 4 March). Once the upgrade has taken place, results for tests taken during the downtime will start filtering through to the EPR.

Please note: The analysers will **NOT** be affected and patient testing will still be available on the ward during these times, only the transfer of data is affected. Blood gas results will not be affected. If you have any queries, please contact [gram.poct@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.poct@nhs.scot)

Devices affected include: Abbott FPP - glucose/ketone meters, Abbott ID Now - Flu/Covid, Roche CoaguChek – INR, Roche Liat - Flu/Covid, Cepheid – Flu/Covid. A further communication will be issued when the works are complete.

**Nominations open for Jane Davies Award for Person-Centred Practice** This award provides an opportunity to celebrate and share examples of high-quality person-centred care and support in our health and social care system. Jane was a founding member of the “What matters to you?” movement and she always had a strong focus on the importance of people and compassionate relationships. This award aims to provide an opportunity for the work that Jane loved so much to continue to be influenced by her example and values. Nominations should be made using the form attached along with today’s Daily Brief email and sent to [his.wmt@nhs.scot](mailto:his.wmt@nhs.scot) no later than Friday 14 March.

**Wellness at Work** Would you or your team like to be part of a test of change looking at Wellness at Work within the Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership (ACHSCP)? Both line managers and individual staff members are invited to work with the Organisational Development team to identify challenges and solutions towards keeping staff well at work. Two sessions will be held to enable staff to share experiences, thoughts and ideas, with a view to identifying some tests of change we could take forward with identified teams.

Sessions will take place on 5 March for all staff in the Seminar Room at Woodend Hospital from 10am to 12noon, and on 17 March for line managers only in the Teaching and Conference Room at Woodend Hospital from 10am to 12noon. If you are interested in going along, please [complete this form](#).

**Inspiring Quality Newsletter** The 9<sup>th</sup> edition of the [Quality Assurance and Improvement team newsletter](#) is now available to view online.

**Home Fire Safety Visits – New Referral Form** Colleagues from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) provide Home Fire Safety Visits to many vulnerable members of our communities. NHS Grampian staff are often the ones who will refer patients to get this important support from the service.

The referral form for NHS Grampian staff to request a Home Fire Safety Visit has recently changed. Please visit the [Public Protection intranet pages](#) to download the latest version, and please delete any old referral forms you may have saved onto your own devices.

**Pause for thought** John O’Donohue wrote: ‘May you be blessed with good friends; and learn to be a good friend to yourself.’ What does being a good friend to yourself mean to you?

**Tune of the day** Hello Monday! For everyone in need of a pick-me-up, here’s Ben Folds on the keys this morning with [Zak and Sara](#). In times like these it’s great to have something you can ‘la da da’ to (KJ).

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)