

Here is the brief for Monday 11 October 2021.

**Update from the weekend** It was another challenging weekend right across the health & social care system. We want to take this opportunity to record our enormous gratitude to everyone who worked so hard to support services, both in the acute sector and in the community. We also wanted to give you a flavour of the work underway to mitigate the significant pressure being faced. At the end of last week, the Grampian Local Resilience Partnership (LRP) was activated. The LRP includes public sector bodies, such as ourselves and the local authorities, and private and Third sector organisations. We have been able to seek support from LRP members, which took the form of a significant volunteer presence over the weekend. Many of you will have had direct contact with the Red Cross volunteers who were working across the Foresterhill site. We were also able to call on vehicles from Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils. Collectively, these teams supported around 20 discharges. In addition, teams from both the Red Cross and Street Pastors were able to provide direct support to patients both in the hospital and community settings. We want to extend our thanks to those volunteer teams (see picture below) and to the staff who worked additional hours to co-ordinate volunteer efforts.



**Working at home beyond 31 December** Since March 2020, in keeping with Scottish Government advice, NHS Grampian has taken a clear position that those of us who can work at home should do so. We have undertaken to provide regular updates on this, the most recent being in August 2021.

We are now asking everyone working at home to continue to do so until **31 March 2022**. This decision has been made due to the continuing high rates of COVID-19 and the need to contribute as far as possible to reducing transmission. There are also environmental benefits, and a reduced risk of slips, trips, and falls from extending these arrangements to the end of winter. We hope this announcement enables you to plan for the coming six months with some certainty.

It is important to highlight that working at home should not be to the detriment of your wellbeing. If you find this is the case for you, please discuss with your line manager in the first instance to see what adjustments to working arrangements can be made to support you. Any use of an NHSG workplace must follow Safer Workplaces guidance, such as regular review of the Your Health and Wellbeing Review document [Safe Workplaces](#)

**Smarter Working** We also want to update you on the progress of our Smarter Working Programme. This was previously known as the Agile Working Programme, with the title now reflecting what we hope will be the longer-term benefits of increased use of technology, developing our property infrastructure, and introducing new ways of working made possible by these.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the Smarter Workplace survey. The responses have provided important information which will inform several pieces of work. This includes the development of our Workplace Strategy, which is an important step towards informing the type of working styles we can enable moving forward.

Our project group are meeting fortnightly to oversee development of the Workplace Strategy. This strategy will initially set out the working styles and workspace designs that our infrastructure and technology can accommodate for office-based staff. We hope to publish this by January 2022. Please look out for further opportunities to engage with and inform this strategy in the coming weeks.

**Grampian data** The local update for today (and across the weekend) is shown below.



[The Public Health Scotland daily dashboard is available to view via this link.](#)

**A tuneful thought for the day** I have spent most of today wrestling with what to put in this part of the brief. Maybe it's just me, but it has felt like a particularly tough day. Many, many questions and not much in the way of answers. I am acutely aware of how hard you are all working, how hard we have all worked for the last 18 months. When does it end? When do we finally get to put this experience behind us? To offer up a link to a YouTube video doesn't seem like enough, indeed it might even come across as glib or even offensive.

I am (as I suspect a lot of you are) a fixer by nature. I want to make things better and not being able to is enormously frustrating. What I can do though, is offer a message, through the vocal talents of others.

[Today's tune is You've Got A Friend by Carole King.](#) You do. Please look after yourselves.

If you want to request a song for tune of the day, 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)