

Monday 2 October 2023

RAAC update We have created a dedicated page on our public website for the RAAC survey programme and added an updated FAQ. The page is available to view here; more information will be added as formal survey reports are returned: [NHS Scotland Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete \(RAAC\) Survey Programme \(nhsgrampian.org\)](https://www.nhs.uk/raac-survey-programme)

Do you have a question for the Diversity Festival panel? While we hope we may have answered some of your questions about our soon-to-be-launched Anti-Racism Plan through [this explainer document](#), the Q&A panel at this week's Diversity Festival is keen to give everyone an opportunity to put forward any queries you may have. Email gram.diversityfest@nhs.scot by close of play tomorrow (Tuesday 3 October). We will follow up after the event with answers.

Encouraging a 'Speak up' Culture Today marks the beginning of Speak Up Week, which gives us an opportunity to reflect on cultures within our teams and workplaces. Our vision for organisational culture is one where we can all thrive and be safe and well at work. It's important we all recognise that we are all architects of our teams' cultures; we are all responsible for creating inclusive and supportive work environments where team members feel able to speak up. 'Commitment to Culture' resources can help you to start local conversations about the development of speak up culture in your teams and services.

There are lots of helpful resources on our website: [Speak Up Week 2023 \(nhsgrampian.org\)](https://www.nhs.uk/speak-up-week-2023) and we would encourage you to have a read. Jason Nicol Head of Wellbeing, Culture & Development, sums [things up in this short video clip](#). You may also be interested in registering for the Independent National Whistleblowing Officer's [live online panel discussion this Thursday \(5 October\) at 11am](#).

Addition of the Clinical and Non-clinical annual IPC refreshers to the mandatory/statutory page on Turas Whether you are a clinical or non-clinical member of staff, you are required to complete the relevant IPC refresher module from the Scottish Infection Prevention and Control Education Pathway (SIPCEP) **annually**. These two modules, Annual Refresher for Clinical Staff and Annual Refresher for Non-clinical staff, have been added to the Statutory / Mandatory page on Turas, via the links below. These are not new, but they have now been added to this page to make it clearer which SIPCEP modules you should undertake every year. If you are reading a printed version of the brief, remember you can find the courses on Turas by searching these titles:

- [Infection prevention and control refresher for clinical staff.](#)
- [Infection prevention and control refresher for non-clinical staff.](#)

Managers should note, these are the modules you are required to report, dependent on designation, for your team to evidence they are compliant with their IPC mandatory training.

Disposal of Batteries Following the discovery of two bags of 'household' type batteries in the compactor waste skip at Phase 2 (ARI), and in a general waste bin in the Pink Zone (ARI) we want to remind **everyone** reading that batteries must **never** be disposed in either our general waste **or** clinical waste streams. Batteries pose a significant fire risk and must be disposed of safely.

Any site or service producing battery waste should have a separate collection box for these (cardboard is fine), which when full should be sealed, marked as Battery Recycling, and sent to Central Stores. Teams at Dr Gray's Hospital can also use the collection point in the hospital foyer. In all cases, the battery terminal should be taped over, to avoid any accidental discharge when mixed with other batteries. Clinical waste sharps bins should never be used to store batteries to avoid the risk of these being accidentally disposed of in the clinical waste stream.

SWAN Secure Web Access (SWAN SWA) Remote Access Due to essential maintenance, and starting tomorrow, the SWAN Secure Web Access service will be unavailable intermittently as follows:

- Tuesday 3 October 6-10pm
- Thursday 5 October 6-10pm
- Tuesday 10 October 6-10pm
- Thursday 12 October 6-10pm

During these times the use of SWAN Secure Web Access will be limited. If you require access to NHS Grampian systems during these times an alternative means of access should be identified. This maintenance is essential to perform mandatory updates to maintain the stability and security of the environment. **This maintenance work does not impact on remote access from NHS Grampian devices (e.g., using AOVPN or Direct Access on a laptop).**

NHS Grampian Charity – new fund guidance & application forms These updated documents are now live! They have been created following your feedback and are available to download via the [Intranet \(networked devices only\)](#). The most up-to-date version of forms should be used for each application. Please do not use previous versions of forms already saved on your devices, as they will be returned to you, with a request to use the correct form. All Fund Stewards have been invited to a mandatory information session on the new processes to help them support staff with applications. Any Fund Stewards who have not received this invitation should contact the charity directly on gram.charities@nhs.scot

Don't forget, the NHS Grampian Charity team are on the road from tomorrow! If you've got questions about what they do, or how to apply, you can pop along to one of their in-person sessions. Dates, times, and locations available here [Pages - Roadshows \(scot.nhs.uk\)](#)

Challenge poverty week Starting today, Challenge Poverty week is an opportunity for everyone to raise their voice against poverty. It's a week of opportunities for partners to unite and call for a just and equal Scotland. This year Aberdeen will see Shmu, CFine, AberNecessities and Aberdeen Cyrenians join forces to lead on events such as radio takeovers, film screenings, and awareness raising sessions across the week. In Aberdeenshire, the Lived Experience Network, the Kincardine & Mearns Food Partnership Forum and Aberdeenshire's Employability and Financial Inclusion Partnerships are all involved in hosting events. Here's how you can get involved:

- Encourage colleagues to complete the [Public Health Scotland e-learning on Challenging Poverty Stigma and Discrimination](#)
- Track social media posts by following, The Poverty Alliance, Shmu, CFINE, AberNecessities and Aberdeen Cyrenians, and like, comment, and share posts remembering to use #ChallengePovertyWeekABZ #CPWABZ
- Attend the film screening and discussion event on Friday (6 October) (10am-12noon) at Aberdeen Music Hall. [Interested? Register here.](#)

- Tune into shmuFM (99.8FM in the Aberdeen area), Monday to Friday from 11am to 12noon for our policy themed shows. There will also be an all-day radio takeover on Thursday 5 October.
- Kincardine & Mearns Food Forum Partnership discussion 9am-12noon on Thursday 5 October (Viewmount, Stonehaven). Contact Lesley Robertson (lesley.robertson@aberdeenshire.gov.uk) for more information

To find out more about activity from wider partners [visit the Challenge Poverty events calendar](#).

Pause for thought A pause shapes the experience of what came before and what is to follow, giving us a moment to appreciate the present. If everything could wait for a moment, what might be possible?

Tune of the day Lynne Dickson actually suggested this as a tune to round off the week, but I think it sets us pretty nicely for a new week too; [One Day Like This](#) by Elbow (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