



# Annual Report

## 2005/06



### The annual review of the performance of NHS Grampian

The Annual Review gives us an opportunity to reflect on good progress and to focus on what we need to do in the year ahead. Throughout the Minister's visit to Grampian in August we were able to demonstrate the benefits to patient care of single system working and service redesign. We also recognised the contribution that each and every member of staff plays in achieving the high quality of care we strive to deliver. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff of NHS Grampian as well as those in partner organisations and the many volunteers for making 2005/06 a successful year for the caring community in Grampian.

A challenging agenda remains for the future but I am confident that continued implementation of our Health Plan will deliver a high quality health service, fit for the 21st Century and the needs of the Grampian population.

We have decided again this year to issue our Annual Report as this brief summary, and encourage you to seek further information

and ways to get involved, by contacting our Corporate Communications Team on **01224 554400**, Email [grampian@nhs.net](mailto:grampian@nhs.net) or by visiting our website [www.nhsgrampian.org](http://www.nhsgrampian.org) where you will find:

- The full self-assessment completed by NHS Grampian prior to the Annual Review meeting.
- The formal response from the Health Minister following the Annual Review meeting on 7 August 2006.
- The Annual Accounts for 2005/2006.
- More information about Healthfit and our Health Plan *Tomorrow's Health Today*, and how to get involved in working with us to plan for the future.
- Further information about NHS Grampian, the Grampian NHS Board, and practical information about using health services in Grampian.

**JIM ROYAN**  
Chairman, NHS Grampian



*Health Minister visits Links Unit*  
(picture courtesy of Press and Journal)



*Improving access to dentistry*

## What is the Annual Review?

The performance of NHS Grampian is assessed formally by the Scottish Executive Health Department each year through the Annual Review process. This includes a public meeting where key areas of performance are discussed. In 2006, this meeting took place on 7 August and was conducted by Health and Community Care Minister Andy Kerr, the Deputy Minister Lewis Macdonald, with senior officials from the Scottish Executive Health Department.

In advance of the Annual Review, the Board is asked to produce a self-assessment report on its performance. The topics to be covered in the self-assessment are selected by the Health Department and form the agenda for the Review meeting.

The Annual Review day is also an opportunity for the Minister and his team to see frontline services and meet staff, which this year included a visit to the Links Unit, a city based community hospital. The Minister also met two Board advisory groups, the Grampian Area Partnership Forum and the Area Clinical Forum and, for the first time, he also met patient representatives from across Grampian.

The outcome of the Annual Review is captured in a formal letter from the Minister to the Board Chairman, Jim Royan. This details specific actions and agreements, which come out of the meeting.

## What did the Review cover?

A wide range of activity was discussed at the Annual Review. Here are some of the highlights:

### *Achievements in the last year*

The Minister heard that there had been a number of achievements in many areas over the last year. These included the further development of Grampian's three local authority aligned Community Health Partnerships, providing a strong focus for moving services closer to communities and removing barriers between different care sectors and agencies. Particular mention was made of the Managed Clinical Network for epilepsy involving patients in the design and operation of the service, and whose fresh approach had led to a national award for the Network's lead epilepsy nurse.

The Minister was impressed that 47% of Grampian's working population was now employed by an organisation involved in the Scotland's Health at Work programme (SHAW) – the highest percentage in the country. Good progress was being made on a package of measures to improve access to NHS dentistry with the Aberdeen Dental Institute scheduled to open in September. The Board had delivered on its commitments to reduce waiting times and was on schedule to deliver further improvements.



*National award for epilepsy nurse*

If you smoke when you're pregnant so does your baby



*Supporting mothers to stop smoking*

### *Shifting the balance of care*

The meeting spent some time discussing the Board's impressive yet challenging modernisation agenda, which had included the setting of targets for moving activity away from specialist hospitals like Aberdeen Royal Infirmary to Community Health Partnership managed settings such as GP surgeries, pharmacies and community hospitals. NHS Grampian had already made good progress in modernising its workforce through enhancing the role of nurses, allied health professionals, GPs and pharmacists to support the delivery of diagnosis and care at a local level.

### *Working in partnership*

The meeting heard that there had been advances in the close working relationships of NHS Grampian's G-Med service with NHS 24 and the Scottish Ambulance Service, to provide out-of-hours services. As part of the Board's redesign programme, the co-location of out-of-hours services, such as currently exist and work well in Elgin, would be replicated in Aberdeen. In order to further reduce waiting times the Board had continued to work with NHS Tayside and NHS Fife on the planning of the new Regional Treatment Centre at Stracathro. Reducing the number of people delayed in hospital while awaiting discharge to a more appropriate setting, remained a considerable challenge for Grampian and

its partners in local authorities and the independent sector. The Minister heard about joint arrangements to increase rehabilitation in the community and nursing home capacity, as well as initiatives which include medicine management training for carers. Specific mention was made of progress being made to establish the prestigious Mathew Hay clinical skills centre – a joint venture with the University of Aberdeen.

### *Efficiency and Finance*

The Minister was pleased that the Board had met its main financial targets in 2005/06 and was on course to continue this through its 5 year forward financial plan. It was noted that there is a reliance on non-recurring funding to sustain financial balance and the need to reduce this was seen as a key task.

Clinical and non-clinical staff had contributed to delivering an efficient service and NHS Grampian continued to demonstrate relatively low unit costs in providing hospital services. Another key task was to increase rates of day surgery as a percentage of all elective surgery and demonstrate progress towards the target of 75% during 2006.

## Actions agreed for the future

The meeting finished with the agreement of action points for NHS Grampian which would be reviewed at the 2006/07 review. These included:

- Meeting all standards on infection control
- Continued improvements in access to NHS dentistry
- Further reducing the number of Delayed Discharges
- Meeting all waiting time targets
- Implementing an action plan to increase day surgery
- Meeting financial targets.

## How to find out more

You can also find this leaflet on the NHS Grampian website, where you can find out more about NHS Grampian including:

- what the Grampian NHS Board does and who is on it
- more about our hospitals, GP surgeries and other local services
- other information which will be useful to you – whether you are a patient, visitor, student, work in the health field, or as any member of the public.

## If you would like any of the following:

- help to find the documents mentioned above on the NHS Grampian website
- paper copies of information (for example if you do not have access to the internet)
- someone to come and talk to your group about the Grampian Health Plan and how you can influence it

- more information on specific issues and initiatives
- to give us comments or suggestions on any aspect of the work of NHS Grampian
- to find out how to 'get involved' in planning health services in Grampian.

### *Please contact:*

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If you need this, or any other NHS Grampian publication in an alternative format (large print, audio tape etc) or in another language please contact Corporate Communications at the above address.

### *NHS Health Services*

General number	<b>0845 456 6000</b>
Free Healthline	<b>0500 20 20 30</b>
Dental Advice line	<b>0845 45 65 990</b>
NHS 24	<b>0845 4 24 24 24</b>
NHSG Feedback Service	<b>0845 337 6338</b>