

Angus Council Scrutiny and Audit Committee

External Audit Progress Update November 2017

Completion of 2016/17 audit

1. We are currently completing the audit of the 2016/17 Whole of Government Accounts (WGA) consolidation pack and the 2016/17 Housing Benefit subsidy claim. These are the final areas of our 2016/17 audit.

Planning and risk assessment for 2017/18 audit

2. We will start planning and risk assessment work shortly to inform our 2017/18 Annual Audit Plan. The plan will set out the audit risks identified by our planning work and the audit work we propose in response to those risks. We will bring the 2017/18 Annual Audit Plan to the 6 March 2018 Scrutiny and Audit Committee meeting.

National performance audit reports

3. The "[Self Directed Support: 2017 progress report](#)" published in August 2017 concluded that this care model, which gives people more choice and control over their social care, is not yet achieving its full potential. While many people have benefited from Self-Directed Support (SDS), local health and social care integration joint boards (IJBs) still have a lot to do to provide this for everyone. This is set against a backdrop of increasing demand for social care and tighter budgets.
4. Most people rate social care services highly and the majority of staff are positive about the principles of SDS. The report highlights areas of good practice such as giving front line staff powers to spend small amounts that can make a big difference. On the ground, however, not everyone is getting to choose and control their social care the way they want to and staff need more support to try new approaches. Providers also face challenges in offering flexible services, particularly in recruiting and retaining social care workers.
5. The report includes a [checklist](#) which sets out some questions that councillors and IJB members might ask to seek assurance about progress in implementing self-directed support in their council or IJB.
6. The "[Equal Pay in Scottish Councils](#)" report published in September 2017 concluded that implementing equal pay remains a challenge for local government in Scotland more than a decade after the process was agreed, with around £750 million spent on settling claims so far and nearly 27,000 still outstanding. (Angus Council currently has no live equal pay claims.)
7. The Commission has recommended that councils and elected members ensure that their pay arrangements are fair and transparent. This includes assessing the impact of organisational changes that may affect arrangements in future, and publishing equal pay statements and policies.
8. All national performance audit reports and information on forthcoming reports can be found on Audit Scotland's website www.audit-scotland.gov.uk.