



ANGUS HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD AUDIT COMMITTEE – 28 AUGUST 2019

2018/19 ANGUS INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD – ASSURANCES RECEIVED FROM PARTNERS

REPORT BY ALEXANDER BERRY, CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

ABSTRACT

In compiling the Integration Joint Board's Annual Governance statement, reference was made to receipt of assurance from NHS Tayside and Angus Council regarding their governance arrangements noting that Angus IJB is reliant on both Partners to deliver the IJB's overall aims and objectives. This report provides an update on those assurances.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Integration Joint Board Audit Committee:-

- (i) Note that the IJB has issued confirmation of the adequacy and effectiveness of the governance arrangements in place within Angus IJB for 2018/19 to Angus Council and shared requested documentation with NHS Tayside (NHS Tayside requested a copy of the IJB's Governance Statement);
- (ii) Note the position re confirmation of receipt of the assurance from Angus Council;
- (iii) Note the position re assurances contained within NHS Tayside's Governance Statements with respect to NHS Tayside;
- (iv) Note that the status of assurances with respect to NHS Tayside and Angus Council is consistent with the contents of the IJB's Governance Statement in the audited Annual Accounts.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 On an annual basis the IJB has to include a Governance Statement within its Annual Accounts. Angus IJB Audit Committee considered Angus IJB's draft 2018/19 Governance Statement at its June 2019 meeting (report 28/19).

Report 28/19 also noted that Angus IJB had to provide assurances to both NHS Tayside and Angus Council regarding governance arrangements in place within Angus IJB. This was duly completed by July 2019. A letter was issued to Angus Council providing relevant assurances and NHS Tayside requested a copy of the IJB's Governance Statement which provided the necessary assurance.

Report 28/19 also noted the reliance Angus IJB places on the governance arrangements within NHS Tayside and Angus Council and that assurance would be required from both partners regarding internal controls and their adequacy and effectiveness prior to the August Audit Committee.

- 2.2 Since the last Audit Committee, Angus Council's Scrutiny and Audit Committee will have met and, after reviewing information including the Council's Internal Audit Annual Report and draft 2018/19 Governance Statement, do expect to issue a letter to Angus IJB confirming the status of Angus Council governance arrangements for 2018/19 and the reliance Angus IJB can place on these. A draft of this letter, issued after the pre-agenda meeting of the Committee, is attached at appendix 1. A final and signed version of the letter will be issued after the Angus Council Scrutiny and Audit Committee meeting of 20 August 2019. The status of this letter will be confirmed at the IJB Audit Committee meeting of 28 August 2019 and, in advance of that if practical, to the IJB's External Auditors.
- 2.3 It has been agreed with NHS Tayside that they would share their 2018/19 Governance Statement with Angus IJB as the vehicle for providing assurance to Angus IJB. NHS Tayside's Governance Statement was submitted to NHS Tayside's Audit Committee in June 2019. That Governance Statement concluded by noting:-

"As the newly appointed Accountable Officer, and taking into account the improvement work undertaken during the year and referenced above, I am able to conclude that, taking into account the governance framework and the assurances and evidence received from the Board's committees, that corporate governance was operating effectively throughout the financial year ended 31 March 2019."

The Governance Statement and NHS Tayside's Annual Accounts were approved by NHS Tayside. This consequently provides the required assurance to Angus IJB regarding arrangements in place within NHS Tayside.

From a Health and Social Care Partnership perspective it is worth noting a section regarding Partnership Working:-

"The Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014 provided a framework for the effective integration of adult health and social care services. The arrangements for the establishment of the three Health and Social Care Partnerships - Angus, Dundee and Perth & Kinross - were set out within the Integration Schemes established between NHS Tayside and the respective Local Authorities aligned to each partnership. The Integration Schemes for each of the three Health and Social Care Partnerships were approved by Scottish Ministers in October 2015. A forum has been established, 'Working Together in Tayside', where the Chairs, Council Leaders, Chief Executives and Chief Officers from the Board, the Local Authorities and Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs) can meet to develop a more integrated and inclusive approach to delivering public services across Tayside. We continue to review and revise these governance arrangements to ensure that they reflect the assurances that both the health board and local authority require to discharge their respective responsibilities as statutory bodies. During 2019/20, we plan to take further steps to improve the clinical and care governance relationships between the Health and Social Care Partnerships and the Board. We will also take account of the areas highlighted in the self assessments undertaken in response to the Ministerial Review Group review of health and social care integration."

3. CONCLUSIONS

The IJB's Audit Committee needs to note the expected confirmation of assurances from Angus Council. If practical, the status of this letter will be shared with the IJB's External Auditors in advance of the IJB's Audit Committee meeting.

The Audit Committee should note the content of NHS Tayside's Governance Statement and the fact that it concludes that corporate governance was operating effectively during 2018/19.

REPORT AUTHOR: ALEXANDER BERRY, CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

EMAIL DETAILS: hsciangus.tayside@nhs.net

DATE: August 2019

List of Appendices:

Appendix 1: Assurances Provided by Angus Council – Year to 31 March 2019 (draft)