



ANGUS HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE
INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD AUDIT COMMITTEE – 24 JUNE 2020
GOVERNANCE ACTIONS PLAN
REPORT BY ALEXANDER BERRY, CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

ABSTRACT

This report provides a “Governance Actions Plan” for ongoing review by the Audit Committee. The source of “actions” includes the 2018/19 Annual Internal Audit Report and the IJB’s Governance Statement. In future it may also reflect issues emerging from External Audits or other sources.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

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

- (i) Note the attached Governance Actions Plan;
- (ii) Request that an update regarding the Ministerial Steering Group action plan be submitted to the August IJB meeting; and
- (iii) Request that Governance Action Plan updates be submitted to all future meetings of the Angus IJB Audit Committee until agreed otherwise.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Since the inception of the IJB, the IJB has sought to address a series of governance issues. These are flagged up through a variety of sources including, primarily, the Annual Internal Audit report, the IJB’s own Governance Statement and External Audits reports. At times issues can overlap or do evolve over time. As clearly described in the IJB’s own Governance Statement (2018/19 and 2019/20 (draft)) a number of issues that still need resolved have been outstanding for some time.

In late 2018/19, the Ministerial Strategic Groups’ (MSG) review of Integration also resulted in the development of an action plan to address shortcomings – many of these overlap with previous recommendations from, for example, Internal Audit. The MSG action plan was shared with the main IJB Board in August 2019. The December Audit Committee recommended that an update on progress be presented to the February 2020 IJB Meeting. For a variety of reasons this did not happen, although subsequently an update was presented to the IJB’s Strategic Planning Group in March 2020. While more recent progress with MSG actions will have been affected by COVID-19 issues, it is still recommended that an update re MSG actions is provided to the August IJB Board. This will allow the IJB to be more closely sighted on progress and to more thoroughly prepare for future iterations of the MSG evaluation.

Actions listed in appendix 1 refer back to the 2018/19 Annual Internal Audit Report but a number of issues are also referenced in the IJB's Governance Statement (2018/19) or have been referred to in previous Internal Audit reports.

This action plan will be shared at future IJB Audit Committee's and progress to deliver actions can therefore continue to be tracked by the Audit committee. The Annual Internal Audit report noted "It is vital that the Audit Committee regularly monitors progress in implementing the MSG report as well as previously agreed governance actions". This report is intended to facilitate that. However after previous discussions, it was also agreed to highlight significant Governance issues to the main IJB Board. This was undertaken in February 2020. At the end of 2019/20, the IJB's Internal Auditors have reiterated again the importance of the IJB understanding the outstanding governance issues and the importance of ensuring progress is made towards resolving these issues.

- 2.2 The status actions is described using the same indicators as are used in the IJB's separate "Internal Audit Report – Follow Up Actions" reports regularly provided to the IJB and will be as follows:-

Status Category	Explanation of Status
TBC	Still "To be confirmed" – occasionally used where no information is available or has been made available.
Complete	Action complete.
Complete (Ongoing)	Action complete, but with an ongoing requirement.
Not Yet Started	Applies to actions not overdue.
Limited Progress	Applies to actions not overdue.
Good Progress	Applies to actions not overdue.
Overdue (*Not Yet Started / Limited Progress / Good Progress)	Overdue actions with detail re progress.
Superseded	Action superseded or no longer relevant. Commentary will provide clarity.

Actions that are "complete" will be reported for 2 successive Audit Committees to provide context. Some actions may eventually be superseded by other circumstances, recommendations or actions. Note that in all instances, the commentary in the appendix may provide further information

- 2.3 It is clear from the appendix that many actions still need to be initiated or progressed or concluded to develop the IJB's overall governance arrangements. As has been noted before, a number of issues included in this report are particularly complex and cannot be solved by the IJB in isolation. However progress will need to be demonstrated to the Audit Committee and, for example, Internal Audit, over the coming year with these issues.
- 2.4 The IJB's Audit Committee should be aware that shortcomings in corporate support can undermine the IJB's ability to progress some governance issues at the required pace.

3. CONCLUSIONS

The IJB should note the attached IJB Governance Action Plan and request that updated versions of this are submitted to future Audit Committees.

REPORT AUTHOR: ALEXANDER BERRY, CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER
EMAIL DETAILS: hsciangus.tayside@nhs.net
DATE: June 2020

List of Appendices: Appendix 1: Angus IJB Governance Actions Plan

