



**ANGUS HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE**

**INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD AUDIT COMMITTEE – 26 AUGUST 2020**

**2019/20 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 2019/20 to Angus Council, NHS Tayside, Dundee IJB and Perth & Kinross IJB;
- (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 the position re assurances from Dundee IJB and Perth & Kinross IJB.
- (v) Note that the status of assurances received 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 2019/20 Governance Statement at its June 2020 meeting (report 34/20).

Report 34/20 noted that Angus IJB had to provide assurances to Angus Council, NHS Tayside and neighbouring IJBs (Dundee IJB and Perth & Kinross IJB) regarding governance arrangements in place within Angus IJB. This was duly completed in July 2020. The inclusion of Dundee and Perth & Kinross IJB's reflect Angus IJB's hosting of services on behalf of these IJBs.

Report 34/20 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. Assurances have also been requested from Dundee and Perth & Kinross IJBs with respect to their overall governance arrangements given they host services on behalf of Angus IJB.

- 2.2 Angus Council's Scrutiny and Audit Committee is due to meet on 25 August 2020 and, after reviewing information including the Council's Internal Audit Annual Report and draft 2019/20 Angus Council Governance Statement, do expect to issue a letter to Angus IJB

confirming the status of Angus Council governance arrangements for 2019/20 and the reliance Angus IJB can place on these. A draft of this letter is attached at appendix 1. A final and signed version of the letter will be issued after the meeting of 25 August 2020. The status of this letter will be confirmed at the IJB Audit Committee meeting of 26 August 2020.

- 2.3 It has been agreed with NHS Tayside that they would share their 2019/20 Governance Statement with Angus IJB as the vehicle for providing assurance to Angus IJB. NHS Tayside's Governance Statement was considered within Annual Accounts approved at NHS Tayside's Board meeting of on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2020. That Governance Statement concluded by noting:-

"As the appointed Accountable Officer, I am able to conclude with the ongoing improvement work undertaken throughout the year, as evidenced above, the governance framework, the assurances and evidence received from the Board's committees, that corporate governance continues to be strengthened and was operating effectively throughout the financial year ended 31 March, 2020."

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 the following sections of NHS Tayside Governance Statement:-

#### **Internal Control Matters**

- **Health and Social Care Partnerships** - *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 and 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.*
- **Perth & Kinross HSCP** – *The need to strengthen the clinical and care governance arrangements within the Perth & Kinross HSCP is an ongoing issue. Regular updates are provided to the Perth & Kinross IJB Audit and Performance Committee. Pressures due to the complexity, sensitivity and difficulty of the issues identified are recognised across Scotland. There is the need to ensure that the IJB has the capacity and capability to implement the significant changes needed to respond to the key issues identified. Progress has been made in 2019/20, but, with a number of control weaknesses still present, there is a need to focus and prioritise how the IJB addresses these. One of the most significant pressures faced by the IJB has been Mental Health Services, which, following confirmation from Scottish Government, will now be led by NHS Tayside, rather than the local Integration Joint Boards. An overall Partnership Improvement Plan has been agreed and implementation of this during 2019/20 and moving forward will support further ongoing improvement to governance arrangements.*
- **Dundee HSCP** – *following an internal audit of Dundee IJB, Information Governance and Technology as Enablers, reported in January 2020, there were a number of findings that require actions to be taken to improve the governance arrangements between NHS Tayside and the IJB. In particular the finalisation of the Data/Information Sharing Agreement and the development of an integrated IT solution. An action plan has been agreed with management to address the identified weaknesses.*

While noting the comments regarding the Perth and Kinross IJB Improvement Plan, in due course Angus HSCP will consider the issues raised with respect to Dundee IJB as part of follow up actions to the 2019/20 Data Quality Internal Audit.

- 2.4 Governance assurances have previously been requested from both Dundee & Perth Partnerships. However, it should be noted that Partnership's internal governance approval timelines all vary and, in 2019/20 in particular, may be affected by COVID-19 capacity and timing issues. An update on the status of governance assurances from Dundee and Perth Partnerships will be provided at the Audit Committee meeting.

### 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 2019/20.

The Audit Committee should note a verbal update regarding the status of governance assurances from Dundee and Perth Partnerships will be provided at the Audit Committee meeting.

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**DATE:** August 2020

List of Appendices:

Appendix 1: Assurances Provided by Angus Council – Year to 31 March 2020 (draft)

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25 August 2020

Gail Smith  
Chief Officer  
Angus Integrated Joint Board  
Angus House  
Orchardbank Business Park  
Forfar  
DD8 1AX

Dear Gail Smith

Assurance provided by Angus Council – Year to 31 March 2020

Angus Council provides support services to Angus Integrated Joint Board (Angus IJB) under the agreement dated 4 February 2016.

The Angus Council Scrutiny & Audit Committee has overseen delivery of a risk-assessed Internal Audit plan for 2019/2020. As Convener of the Scrutiny & Audit Committee, taking into account the work undertaken by the committee, I confirm on behalf of the committee that adequate and effective governance arrangements were in place throughout Angus Council during the year 2019/20 in relation to the support services provided to Angus IJB.

Further detail can be found in the following reports, which were considered by the committee at its meeting on 16 June 2020:

- Internal Audit Annual Report 2019/2020
- Draft Angus Council Governance Statement 2019/2020
- Scrutiny & Audit Committee Annual Report for 2019/2020

Yours sincerely

Councillor King  
Convener, Angus Council Scrutiny & Audit Committee