



ANGUS HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD AUDIT COMMITTEE – 23 JUNE 2021

INTERNAL AUDIT REPORTS - FOLLOW UP ACTIONS

REPORT BY ALEXANDER BERRY, CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

ABSTRACT

The aim of this paper is to update the Audit Committee regarding the IJB’s progress with meeting the recommendations of Internal Audit reports.

1. RECOMMENDATION

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

- (i) note the report and the progress made to date in terms of delivering the planned response.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 On a regular basis the IJB’s Audit Committee receives Internal Audit Final reports setting out the findings of agreed Internal Audits. Many of these reports have recommendations for improvements contained within them and the final versions of reports will have agreed “management responses” to those recommendations of the Internal Auditors. All “management responses” will have time lines and associated lead officers. This report provides an update regarding progress with “management responses”.

Status updates are provided by Lead Officers and collated in the period prior to an Audit Committee. On that basis, action status information will not always be perfectly up to date by the date of an Audit Committee.

Progress is described using an agreed clarification shown below for reference. Note that in all instances, the commentary in the appendix may provide further information.

Status Category	Explanation of Status
TBC	Still “To be confirmed” – e.g. where no information is 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Superseded	Action superseded or no longer relevant.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 Some actions may eventually be superseded by other circumstances, recommendations or actions. Once noted as “Superseded”, actions will not be reported at further Audit Committees.

2.2 Actions re report AN07/18 (Financial Management)

A formal review of Corporate Support arrangements has still not yet been initiated. While, shortcomings within overall Corporate Support arrangements have a detrimental impact on the IJB, the IJB has acknowledged that a review of this issue will not be progressed in 2020/21. The IJB has previously highlighted the importance of this issue to NHS Tayside and Angus Council.

In March 2021, Angus Council approved the release of additional resources to support the delivery of Finance and Procurement services to Angus IJB. The IJB will review the progress of this helpful commitment and report back to the Audit Committee, under this item, any resultant improvement.

2.3 Actions re report AN05/20 (Risk Management)

An updated Risk Management Strategic was agreed at the IJB's April 2021 meeting. A number of consequent actions still remain to be progressed including training and describing the IJB's Risk Appetite.

2.4 Actions re report AN06/20 (Data Quality)

The progression of some of these improvement actions has been delayed due to COVID-19 responses. However progress has been started to be made with some aspects of the action plan and others will be progressed as soon as capacity allows.

3. CONCLUSION

- 3.1 The Audit Committee are asked to note the report and the progress made to date in terms of delivering the planned response.

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Appendix 1: Angus IJB Internal Audit reports – Follow Up Actions

Angus Integration Joint Board: Internal Audit Reports - Follow-up Action

Appendix 1

IJB Audit Report	Rec. Ref.	Recommendation	Priority	Management Response / Action	Action by	Due Date	Status at Audit Committees			Status - Comment
							Dec-20	Apr-21	Jun-21	
AN07/18 Financial Management	1	It is recommended that the Angus Health & Social Care Partnership Chief Officer completes the outstanding action for Recommendation 1 from the original audit (Report AN07-17).	1	AHSCP will look to review overall provision of Corporate Support arrangements (including Finance) with Partners from July 2018. (Note the IJB acknowledge this is later than anticipated).	Chief Officer	Dec. 2018	Overdue - Limited Progress	Overdue - Limited Progress	Overdue - Limited Progress	IJB notified that this unlikely to be progressed in 20/21 but IJB has highlighted the importance attached to this in letters to Angus Council and NHS Tayside. Note - recent Angus Council commitment of additional resource to Procurement and Finance support.
AN07/18	2	It is recommended that the procurement & Commissioning Manager and the Finance Services Manager (Team A) meet to discuss how best to link the contract information to the financial systems in future	3	The IJB and Procurement and Commissioning Manager agree this work needs progressed and concluded. Further work to reconcile Contracts register with Finance information (e.g. budgets) will be led by Finance Manager and Procurement and Commissioning Manager and reported through the Third Party Providers forum. Note - Although action agreed for more than 2 meetings, this action will remain on this list until the 2021/22 report has been issued.	Proc. & Comm. Manager / Finance Manager (Angus Council)	Dec. 2018	Complete	Complete	Complete	Finance and Procurement support an annual reconciliation of budgets and associated contract price increases is undertaken as part of the budget setting process. This work is coordinated through the Third Party Provider working group, membership of which includes senior management, finance and procurement colleagues. On an annual basis, from 21/22, a co-authored report from Finance/Procurement (called Finance (Budget) / Contracts Annual Reconciliation) will be shared with the Third Party Provider Working Group (or any relevant successor group), by September of each financial year, confirming the reconciliation.
AN05/20 Risk Management	1	The Risk Policy and Strategy should be updated and presented for approval to Angus IJB. We are aware that work is ongoing on a Tayside-wide basis to update the HSCI Risk Policy & Strategy... Angus representation should ensure that this work is progressed at pace. The update to the Risk Policy & Strategy should include reference to the interdependencies of these systems and reflect the respective risk management responsibilities of all the partners aligned to the governance arrangements for AHSCP specifically in relation to identifying/escalating, evaluating, recording and monitoring shared risks as well as a clear flow of assurance on shared risks.	Significant	The IJB will review its Risk Policy and Strategy, update it and present it for approval to Angus IJB. This will reflect Tayside-wide work to update the HSCI Risk Policy & Strategy; and will include reference to the interdependencies across systems and respective risk management responsibilities of all partners.	Chief Officer	Dec. 2020	Overdue - Limited Progress	Complete (April 2021 IJB)	Complete (April 2021 IJB)	Paper submitted to April 2-21 IJB Meeting
AN05/20	2	Reports to the board should include a section covering risk to ensure the Board is aware of the impact of their decision or the effect on assurances from information reports where relevant. Where relevant, the risk section should specifically refer to the relevant strategic risk and performance reports should include an overt comment which confirms that risks controls are working as intended and risk scores are correct.	Significant	The IJB will work towards ensuring that from October 2020 all IJB reports include a risk section that will specifically refer to the relevant strategic risk. Additionally Performance reports will include where possible an overt comment which confirms that risk controls are working as intended and risk scores are correct.	Chief Officer	Oct.2020	Overdue (Good Progress)	Complete (April 2021 IJB)	Complete (April 2021 IJB)	Risk Management documents presented to April 2020 IJB confirm inclusion of a "Risk Section" in all relevant IJB reports. New report template issued.
AN05/20	3	The Board should formally agree the IJB risk appetite using an agreed methodology and this should be incorporated in to the Risk Policy and Strategy.	Significant	The IJB will consider the development of the IJB's Risk Appetite and incorporate this into a future iteration of the Risk Policy and Strategy.	Chief Officer	Dec. 2020	Overdue - Not Started Yet	Overdue - Limited Progress	Overdue - Limited Progress	To be considered subsequent to approval of IJB's Risk Management documents possibly via an IJB development session.
AN05/20	4	A formal ongoing training programme/record should be maintained to ensure that all relevant staff, including Board and Audit Committee members, have received risk training.	Merits Attention	The IJB has to keep in mind the time demands on Board members and Audit Committee members, many of whom will also be participants in other forums where risk management is also a feature. Through the IJB's Improvement and Development Team, the IJB will develop and record risk training to ensure that all relevant staff have received risk training.	Head of Service (North)	Feb.2021	Overdue - Limited Progress	Overdue - Limited Progress	Overdue - Limited Progress	Intentions now reflected in IJB's Risk Management documents. At very preliminary stages of planning and action plan still to be agreed.

Angus Integration Joint Board: Internal Audit Reports - Follow-up Action

Appendix 1 (Cont.)

IJB Audit Report	Rec. Ref.	Recommendation	Priority	Management Response / Action	Action by	Due Date	Status at Audit Committees			Status - Comment
							Dec-20	Apr-21	Jun-21	
AN05/20	5	Consideration should be given to ensuring that adequate administrative support is available for the risk management function to cover any future periods of absence.	Merits Attention	The IJB Chief Officer will review the scale of resource and its sustainability and consider options to revisit risk management resources.	Chief Officer	Dec. 2020	Overdue (Good Progress)	Complete	Complete	Complete - Additional resources now in place funded from increased Management and Admin budgets.
AN05/20	6	The Angus HSCP Improvement plan should specifically include governance and assurance arrangements required from partners and from IJBs hosting services on behalf of the Angus HSCP.	Significant	As part of the IJB's review of its Risk Management Strategy & Policy, governance and assurance arrangements required from partners and from IJBs hosting services on behalf of the Angus will be addressed.	Chief Officer	Dec. 2020	Overdue - Limited Progress	Overdue (Good Progress)	Overdue (Good Progress)	Ongoing discussion through GIRFE steering group to discuss this for hosted services. From an Angus perspective, robust risk reporting for hosted services is direct to CCPG & plan to consolidate this with financial and performance reporting.
AN06/20 Data Quality	1(a)	Action is required to ensure that in future the needs of all parties (NHST, Local Authority and IJB) are considered when key IT development decisions are being taken and any IT problems that arise due to the unique circumstances of an H&SCP can be discussed and resolved timeously. In addition, the possibility of interfaces sharing information between systems should be explored. As part of an internal audit report for Dundee IJB (D04/19 Information Technology and Governance as enablers of integration) an action was agreed that 2 out of the 4 meetings per year of the Workplace Enablement (WPE) group which has a remit in relation to this work were to include Angus and P&K representation. We would encourage active participation in this work.	Merits Attention	The Partnership will review opportunities for improvement with regard to Information Technology. This will include considering interfaces between systems and reviewing the options to work with Partners and neighbouring IJBs and...	Chief Officer	Mar-21	Not Started Yet	Overdue - Not Started Yet	Overdue - Not Started Yet	Progress deferred due to COVID-19
	1(b)			(...including participation in the Workplace Enablement (WPE) Group)	Chief Officer	Mar-21	Not Started Yet	Overdue - Not Started Yet	Overdue - Not Started Yet	Progress deferred due to COVID-19
AN06/20	2	We would therefore recommend that the HSCP receives updates on the progress of both the reconciliation of finance and activity information and the implementation of the Home Care contract monitoring system as well as assurance on staffing capacity to ensure current controls will remain ongoing.	Merits Attention	1) The Partnership will continue to progress the work to systematically reconcile finance and activity information.	CFO	Mar-21	Limited Progress	Overdue - Limited Progress	Overdue - Good Progress	Work ongoing. Eclipse migration from Carefirst expected September 2021. Reconciliation dependent on Contract Monitorign system (see below).
				2) The Partnership will progress the implementation of the Home Care Contract Monitoring system to support invoicing and improved data quality.	Head of Service (South)	Mar-21	Limited Progress	Overdue - Limited progress	Overdue - Limited progress	Work progressing with IT supplier and providers. Some progress but IT/developer issues still being addressed. Working Group established to focus on electronic payments with meetings from March 2021.
				3) In addition the Partnership recognises that some data requirements (e.g. actual activity rather than planned activity, Carers activity) are not currently well recorded in data systems and will look to develop this going forward.	Head of Service (South)	Mar-21	Limited Progress	Overdue - Limited progress	Overdue - Limited progress	Recognition of actual rather than planned activity is progressing - dependent on move to Eclipse etc as noted above. Carers activity stil hard to dis-aggregate. Can only be considered post Eclipse migration and, even then, would require a major change in care package recording. This further work will be considered in due course.
				4) The Partnership will ensure clear responsibilities for data quality after recent staff turnover.	Chief Officer	Dec-20	Limited Progress	Overdue - Limited progress	Complete	Staffing sub-structure (linked to data quality issues) now resolved and placed on a permanently funded basis. Separately, lead role still to be filled.