



REPORT TO: HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD -
15TH DECEMBER 2020

REPORT ON: PERFORMANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE CHAIR'S ASSURANCE
REPORT

REPORT BY: CHAIR, PERFORMANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

REPORT NO: DIJB56-2020

This assurance report relates to the meeting of the Performance and Audit Committee of the 24 November 2020.

Instructions Issued by the Committee

The committee issued the following instructions and made the following decisions in relation to the business laid before it:

- Item V – Approved the Audited Annual Accounts for the year end 2019/20 for signature and instructed the Chief Finance Officer to return these to Audit Scotland and arrange for these to be published on the Dundee Health and Social Care Partnership's website by the 30th November 2020. Instructed the Chief Finance Officer to provide an update on progress of the action plan as a response to the external auditor's findings as set out in Audit Scotland's report by January 2021.
- Item VI – In relation to the Measuring Performance Under Integration national indicators, agreed to not set targets for 2020/21 but to continue to monitor the position through the quarterly performance reports.

Issues to highlight to the Board

- This was my first meeting as Chair of the Performance and Audit Committee and I welcomed members to the meeting, including Cllr Short, proxy member for Dundee City Council who attended in place of Cllr Smith.
- Anne Marie Machan and Fiona Mitchell-Knight from Audit Scotland presented their annual audit report and took the committee through their key findings following their assessment of the IJB's activities throughout 2019/20 and the period to date, including recognition of the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- They advised that their report was a balanced report and while there are a range of key findings and recommendations for consideration, there are no major concerns including with the annual accounts themselves. A number of governance improvements have been made however a significant number of other governance recommendations have been slow to progress and as highlighted by the Chief Internal Auditor in his annual internal audit report these need to be progressed as a matter of urgency. This also includes the expansion of minutes for the IJB and PAC which is now being addressed.
- Audit Scotland highlighted the low level of reserves now held by the IJB and the level of 2019/20 overspend which is likely to undermine how the IJB can deliver effective health and social care services. Further financial uncertainty has been created through the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. The PAC heard how the development of a medium to longer term financial plan for the IJB is crucial in providing a strategic overview of the financial challenges and how these may be addressed through the Strategic and Commissioning Plan.
- Audit Scotland also noted concerns that despite requests from the IJB to NHS Tayside, the IJB has had no primary care medical practitioner on the Board for some time. The PAC shared these concerns.
- The PAC asked the Chief Finance Officer to make a couple of minor amendments to the management commentary to the annual accounts before approving for signing.

- A clinical and care governance report was tabled however it was noted that this was not the most up to date position and while some of the issues noted in the report were discussed, the committee agreed to withdraw this item as a formal report and accepted the verbal update.
- In relation to Measuring Performance Under Integration, the PAC heard that there has been no formal request from the Scottish Government for the IJB to set targets for a range of agreed national indicators for 2020/21 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The committee was however satisfied that it will continue to receive performance information through the quarterly performance reporting reports presented to each PAC meeting.

Trudy McLeay
Chair

1st December 2020