



**REPORT TO: HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD -
21 FEBRUARY 2024**

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

REPORT BY: CHAIR, PERFORMANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

REPORT NO: DIJB9-2024

This assurance report relates to the meeting of the Performance and Audit Committee (PAC) of the 31st January 2024.

Instructions Issued and approvals made by the Committee

- Following consideration of the Internal Audit Report on Operational Planning, the Committee instructed the Chief Finance Officer to implement the recommendations of the report and provide an update on progress through the internal audit actions reporting process at a future meeting.

Issues to highlight to the Board

- Following on from previous meetings, the progress of outstanding actions on the action tracker was discussed with agreement reached to remove one of the oldest actions in relation to falls data for a particular locality and pick it up in the Falls Strategy report. A further push will be made by officers to clear other "older" outstanding actions.
- The Committee noted that the IJB had revised the Committee's Terms of Reference which brought them in line with best practice requirements. A number of new responsibilities were noted, such as fraud and counter fraud reporting, development of a formal training programme for members and the production of an annual evaluation. In order to ensure these were implemented, the Committee asked that these be included on the action tracker for future monitoring.
- The Health and Social Care Partnership's quarter 2 (2023/24) Performance Report was presented and scrutinised by the Committee. As ever, Committee members had a range of questions for officers in terms of the information presented. As a result, some areas of further investigation were taken away by officers to review and report back to Committee.
- The HSCP's drug and alcohol services performance indicators were also scrutinised by the Committee with quarter 2 2023/24 information presented. The Committee welcomed the improvements in some areas and the improvement activity in place to support other areas of performance. The Committee noted that work was ongoing to collate MAT standards information over the coming months and therefore the next indicators report would be available in around 6 months' time.
- The quarter 2 Mental Health Services indicators were reported to the Committee which given the prevalence of those living in Dundee with a mental health condition, provided a real focus for the Committee to assess how services were performing against a challenging backdrop of demand. Committee members noted the reduction in mental health admissions to hospital and bed days amongst the population although acknowledged that challenges continue to present across the most deprived communities in the city. One area of concern is the increase in the number of referrals for people to Learning Disability services which the committee will monitor.

- The Clinical Care and Professional Governance Assurance report was presented to the Committee with a range of questions posed by members. The Committee was given satisfactory responses to these questions and sought further clarity for future reporting to better highlight the movement in overdue adverse events reviews. The Committee was content with the reasonable level of assurance of clinical and care governance arrangements in place that the report provided.
- The IJB's Strategic risk register was presented and while acknowledging the relatively steady state of the risk levels, members sought clarity on the risk scores against the impact of the introduction of the National Care Service and the impact of the financial position on the restrictions on public sector funding risk. In relation to the former, officers responded that given the potential impact on the IJB itself in the future, it was deemed appropriate for the risk to remain high while the finance risk would be reviewed again following the 2024/25 budget setting process.
- The Committee was pleased to see the development of Care Opinion for Dundee Health and Social Care services which will provide rich feedback from service users on the provision of services.
- The Committee noted the progress made by Internal Audit in mapping outstanding governance actions and looks forward to the new reporting method and Internal Audit Actions follow up process to be presented to the next PAC.
- The Chief Internal Auditor presented the findings of a review of operational planning arrangements within the Health and Social Care Partnership which was one of the outstanding substantive review from 2022/23. This is critical to ensure the strategic vision set out by the IJB is implemented at a service level. While noting a number of actions to be taken forward by the service to improve on operational planning, the Committee was content to see a reasonable level of assurance assigned to the review.
- The Committee tracked progress of the Internal Audit Plan with Jocelyn Lyall providing an overview of the work being undertaken and planned. The Committee was informed that work around the Internal Control Evaluation had commenced and this will be available at the next meeting for consideration.

Donald McPherson
Acting Chair

8 February 2024