



**REPORT TO: HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD -
13 DECEMBER 2023**

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

REPORT BY: CHAIR, PERFORMANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

REPORT NO: DIJB74-2023

This assurance report relates to the meeting of the Performance and Audit Committee (PAC) of the 22nd November 2023.

Instructions Issued and approvals made by the Committee

- The Committee approved the IJB's Audited Annual Accounts 2022/23 for signing and endorsed the response to Audit Scotland's Annual Report. The Committee instructed the Chief Finance Officer to bring back an update report by the end of February on progress of the associated action plan.

Issues to highlight to the Board

- The Committee noted that a number of actions on the action tracker had been delayed due to lack of capacity within the service to take forward. While recognising the financial situation, the Committee sought assurances from the Chief Finance Officer that efforts were being made to provide the required capacity. The Chief Finance Officer will report back on progress in that regard. Clarity was also provided on the specifics on the ask by the Committee for a presentation to IJB members by the Care Inspectorate where it is looking for an overview of the grading process and how Dundee compares.
- Brian Howarth from Audit Scotland took the Committee through the external auditor's 2022/23 annual report for Dundee IJB, highlighting that while there were some recommendations made (only 1 new for the year) there were no major issues arising from the audit and noted that the accounts had now been audited and were unqualified. This provided the assurance to the Committee that the accounts could be approved for signing. Donald MacPherson raised a concern linked to the latest Internal Audit Plan update report on the agenda which noted some weaknesses in Dundee City Council's general ledger processes and queried if that should be a factor in the audit opinion. Brian advised that Audit Scotland's own testing provided sufficient assurance and the Chief Finance Officer noted that controls were in place around the HSCP's main payment system drivers (payroll and Mosaic) to provide additional assurance. Councillor McHugh highlighted concern about the financial position and level of reserves going forward. The Chief Finance Officer noted there is a very challenging financial position ahead but having the level of reserves we hold will support the position.
- The Health and Social Care Partnership's quarter 1 (2023/24) Performance Report was presented and scrutinised by the Committee with a wide range of questions on aspects of the data and reflections on areas where performance continued to be poor. There was a change in the baseline year indicators were being reported against from 2016 used in previous reports to 2018/19 and this shifted some of the patterns of performance. Councillor McHugh was interested in particular in the different performance across LCPPs when it came to delayed discharges which will be considered by the HSCP's Strategy and Performance team.

- The HSCP's drug and alcohol services performance indicators were also scrutinised by the Committee with quarter 1 2023/24 information presented.
- The Clinical Care and Professional Governance Assurance report was presented to the Committee. A number of questions were raised on varied elements of the report, such as seeking clarity on what a mutual aid request was and what the outcome was. The Committee was given satisfactory responses to these questions and along with the reasonable level of assurance of clinical and care governance arrangements in place that the report provided, was content.
- The 2023/24 Quarter 2 Complaints Performance Report was submitted to the PAC. It was noted that the Scottish Public Services Ombudsmen has now changed the mandatory reporting requirements and the committee was given an overview of those and asked to consider which indicators it wished to see in future meetings. It was also noted that the HSCP was progressing the implementation of Care Opinion to receive better feedback from service users and patients. Assurances were sought that feedback can still be provided by services users who didn't access the internet.
- The regular Strategic Risk Register update was provided to the Committee. This noted a relatively steady position in relation to risk levels with the only change to the previous reported position being an increase in the financial sustainability risk given the deteriorating in year financial monitoring position.
- The Committee tracked progress of the Internal Audit Plan with Jocelyn Lyall providing an overview of the work being undertaken and planned. It is anticipated that the report on operational planning will be available to be presented to the next meeting of the PAC. Work continues to support the replacement arrangements for the Governance Action Plan with the aim to have this completed for the first PAC of 2024.

**Ken Lynn
Chair**

1 December 2023