

Agenda Item 9

National Audit and Inspection Report Overview

Title/Subject: National Audit and Inspection Report Overview

Meeting: Audit Committee

Date: 27 June 2019

Submitted By: Chief Finance Officer

Action: For Noting

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the national reports published in the last six months. The report also proposes a process for ensuring national reports are considered appropriately by the IJB and/or a relevant committee.

2. RECOMMENDATION

The IJB is asked to:

- 2.1. note the contents of this report
- 2.2. approve the process for reviewing national reports

3. PROCESS FOR CONSIDERATION OF NATIONAL REPORTS

- 3.1. Reports may need to be considered in a range of places. As an example, a Care Inspectorate report may need to be considered by the IJB as well as the Clinical and Care Governance Committee (CCGC). The requirements for each report will depend on the nature of the report and the requirements that flow from it. However, it is important that as a minimum all national reports are noted and where appropriate action plans are required, these must be developed and monitored. There must be a process in place to facilitate this.
- 3.2. It is proposed that a National Audit and Inspection Report Overview paper is a standing item at each IJB audit committee. The report will list all of the relevant papers issued in the last quarter and set out the reporting route for the paper. Where reports are not considered by the IJB or CCGC, a summary of the reports will be included in the overview paper. Audit Committee members can highlight if they think that more detailed consideration of the paper is required, and if so, what the appropriate reporting route would be.

4. NATIONAL REPORTS

- 4.1. The table below lists the reports that have been issued in the last six months (approximately) and where the report has been considered. Where appropriate a summary of the report is also included below.

Report	Date	Consideration to Date
Care Inspectorate – Summerford House; Care Home Service	March 2019	Reported to IJB; further consideration by the CCCG committee
Care Inspectorate – Falkirk Council Home Care Service; Housing Support Service	March 2019	Verbal update to IJB Report on agenda for June CCCG committee
Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland – Announced visit to Wards 4 & 5, FVRH	February 2019	To be scheduled for a future CCCG committee
Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland – Announced visit to Lochview	March 2019	To be scheduled for a future CCCG committee
Audit Scotland – Local Government in Scotland: Financial Overview Report 2017/18	November 2018	Summary provided in this report.
Audit Scotland – Social Work in Scotland – Impact Report	December 2018	A separate report is included in this agenda.
Audit Scotland – Local Government in Scotland: Challenges and Performance 2019	May 2019	Summary provided in this report.
Audit Scotland – How Council's Work: Safeguarding Public Money – Are You Getting it Right?	April 2019	A separate report is included in this agenda.
Audit Scotland – General Medical Services Contract in Scotland: A Short Guide	May 2019	Summary provided in this report.
Audit Scotland – Drug & Alcohol Services: An Update	May 2019	Summary provided in this report. Fuller report to be provided to the IJB in September 2019.

4.2. **Audit Scotland – Local government in Scotland: Financial Overview 2017/18**

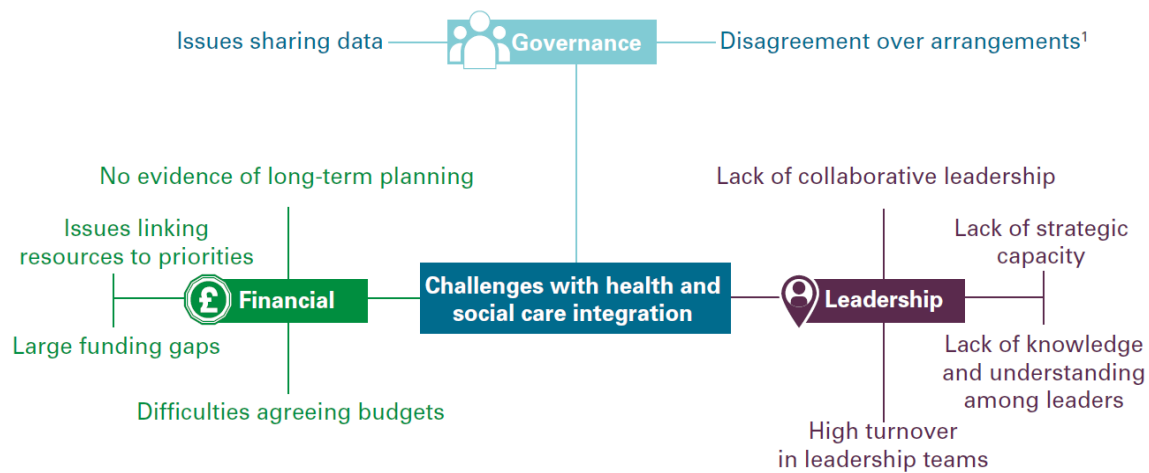
This report is focussed on Local Government but also provides an overview of Integration Joint Boards for the same period.

- 4.3. The report highlights the reductions in local government funding, noting a 6.9% reduction in real terms since 2013/14. The pressure on funding is unlikely to reduce and therefore councils will be expected to continue to make savings and find new ways to meet service demand. This clearly has an implication for the IJB. The importance of medium term financial planning is emphasised in the report.
- 4.4. Funding for IJBs increased in 2017/18 by 1.4% in real terms, mainly through additional Scottish Government funding to the NHS. The report suggests that it could be expected that the difference between what the NHS allocated to IJBs and what it receives for acute services will grow over time, as the aim of integration to shift resources to the community is delivered.
- 4.5. The report highlights that in 2017/18, 20 out of 30 IJBs would have reported deficits without year end support from partners and so it is clear that there are underlying financial sustainability issues. Prescribing costs and adult social care costs were cited as key factors.
- 4.6. The estimated funding gap for IJBs for 2018/19 was £248m. This represents 3% of income, as opposed to the local authority funding gap projections of 2% of income. These financial pressures make it difficult for IJBs to improve services.
- 4.7. **Audit Scotland – Local Government in Scotland: Challenges and Performance 2019**
Audit Scotland published the Local Government in Scotland: Challenges and Performance 2019 report in March 2019.
- 4.8. This report provides a high-level, independent view of the challenges facing councils in Scotland, how councils are responding to tightening budgets and how this has affected services. It draws on findings from *Local government in Scotland: Financial overview 2017/18*, published performance data and local government audit work in 2018.
- 4.9. The report notes that nearly 70% of councils' spending is on social care and education, and more money is being committed to Scottish Government priorities. This leaves councils less flexibility in where to spend and where to save and at the same time councils are facing increased demand.
- 4.10. The report notes that whilst integration authorities have made some improvements, they must overcome several significant barriers to speed up change and improve outcomes. These barriers are shown in the following diagram:

Exhibit 5

Challenges to health and social care integration in Scotland

There are significant changes required if integration is going to make a meaningful difference to the people of Scotland.



Note: 1. Disagreements are often due to differing views on responsibility, especially about who is responsible for service performance and quality of care and when accountability for a decision rests with individuals who are no longer responsible for taking them.

Source: [Health and social care: update on progress](#), Audit Scotland, November 2018

4.11 Information is provided which demonstrates that social care services are struggling to meet demand. Between 2016/17 and 2017/18, councils have spent more on both home care and residential care and this has increased at a faster rate than the people who are cared for.

4.12 To accompany the report, tools have been published:

- A scrutiny tool with examples of questions that councillors could ask to help them understand their council's position, scrutinise performance and assist in making difficult decisions. Councillors should feel they fully understand, and are satisfied with, the answers to the questions that are most relevant to them in their role within the council.
- An online tool that shows how councils are performing. It is designed to allow councillors, officers and members of the public to better understand how their council is performing compared to others.

4.13 **Audit Scotland – General Medical Services Contract in Scotland: A Short Guide**

The short guide by Audit Scotland is a helpful summary of the main aspects of the new General Medical Services (GMS) contract which aims to ensure a more sustainable approach to delivery of such services in Scotland. The guide covers five key areas:

- Funding for general practice
- GP owned premises
- The role of the GP

- Workload pressures
 - Improvements to primary care services
- 4.14 The guide is helpful in providing a simple reference point for the aims of the new GMS contract. The Partnership has been working with colleagues in NHS Forth Valley and the Clackmannanshire and Stirling Partnership to deliver a Primary Care Improvement Plan for Forth Valley. This plan aims to deliver the requirements of the GMS contract. This work has been reported to the IJB. There is a risk around affordability of the plan which has been highlighted to the Scottish Government.
- 4.15 **Audit Scotland – Drug & Alcohol Services: An Update**
 Audit Scotland have very recently published an update on drug and alcohol services. A full audit was not carried out, but a briefing was prepared to provide an overview of the current position based on routine monitoring, drawing on national data and a number of key interviews. The update also summarises progress against recommendations made in Audit Scotland's 2009 audit report. The update identifies where progress has been made and where there is good practice to learn from elsewhere.
- 4.16 Drug and alcohol-related deaths and morbidity remain high in Scotland compared to the rest of the UK and many other European countries. Ten years on from the publication of the national drug and alcohol strategies that aimed to reduce avoidable deaths and support recovery, the evidence suggests that there is much work still required to achieve this goal. In the Forth Valley area the prevalence of drugs deaths is 0.11% per 1000 of population, against a national average of 0.14% per 1000. The Falkirk Alcohol and Drugs Partnership (ADP) is committed to preventing drug related deaths and is working, in partnership with NHS FV, Police Scotland and our third sector colleagues to address the complex issues that lead to problematic drug use.
- 4.17 The ADP has not yet had time to consider the detail of the report, but it is anticipated a further report will be presented to the IJB in September.

5 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 This report provides a summary of some national audit and inspection reports which have been recently published. The report also sets out a proposed framework for ensuring such reports are adequately considered by the IJB in the future.

Resource Implications

There are no resource implications arising from this report.

Impact on IJB Outcomes and Priorities

The IJB is committed to delivering on the outcomes set out in the Strategic Plan. This has to include, for example, effectively planning for services,

having appropriate governance structures and ensuring safe, high quality services are in place. The National Audit reports and Inspection Reports will provide standards and recommendations that the IJB can assess itself against to ensure delivery of the Strategic Plan.

Legal & Risk Implications

There are no legal implications arising from this report. Failure to consider the findings of National Audit reports and Inspection reports would increase the risk that the outcomes of the Strategic Plan are not delivered and potentially that service users are harmed. This in turn would impact on the financial and reputational risk of the IJB and partners.

Consultation

There are no consultation implications arising from this report.

Equalities Assessment

There are no equality implications arising from this report.

Approved for Submission by: Patricia Cassidy, Chief Officer

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Date: 10 June 2019

List of Background Papers: The papers that may be referred to within the report or previous papers on the same or related subjects.