

Agenda Item 8

National Audit and Inspection Report Overview



Falkirk Integration Joint Board – Audit Committee

Date: 6 March 2020

Title: National Audit and Inspection Report Overview

Action: For consideration

Executive Summary

1. The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the national reports published since the September update to the Audit Committee.

Recommendations

The IJB Audit Committee is asked to:

2. Consider the contents of this report.

Background

3. In June 2019, the IJB Audit Committee agreed to receive a National Audit and Inspection Report Overview paper as a standing item at each meeting. This arrangement recognised that reports may need to be considered in a range of places, such as the IJB or Clinical and Care Governance Committee with the requirements dependent on the nature of the report and the requirements that flow from it. However, it was also recognised that as a minimum all national reports must be noted and where appropriate action plans are required, these must be developed and monitored
4. Where reports are not considered by the IJB or Clinical and Care Governance Committee (CCGC), a summary of the reports will be included in the overview paper
5. Audit Committee members can highlight if they think that more detailed consideration of any paper is required, and if so, what the appropriate reporting route would be.

National Reports

6. Audit Committee members can highlight if they think that more detailed consideration of any paper is required, and if so, what the appropriate reporting route would be

Report	Publication Date	Consideration to Date
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
Mental Welfare Commission – Autism and Complex Care	November 2019	Report considered at the Leadership Group meeting on 28 November 2019. To be scheduled for a future CCCG committee
Mental Welfare Commission – Announced visit to Wards 2 & 3, FVRH	October 2019 (date of visit)	To be scheduled for a future CCCG committee
Mental Welfare Commission – Announced visit to Wards 1 (IPCU), FVRH	November 2019 (date of visit)	To be scheduled for a future CCCG committee
Local Government in Scotland: Financial Overview 2018/19	December 2019	Summary provided in this report
Mental Welfare Commission – Scotland’s Mental Health Rehabilitation Wards – themed visit	January 2020	To be scheduled for a future CCCG committee
Care Inspectorate – Falkirk Council Mobile Emergency Care Service Housing Support Service	December 2019	To be scheduled for a future CCCG committee
Care Inspectorate – Torwood Hall Care Home Services	January 2020	To be scheduled for a future CCCG committee
Mental Welfare Commission – Announced visit to Ward 4, FVRH	December 2019	To be scheduled for a future CCCG committee

7. **Local Government in Scotland: Financial Overview 2018/19**

Each year Audit Scotland publish a Financial Overview as part of their Local Government in Scotland series. The 2018/19 report includes consideration of the financial overview of IJBs. A number of key messages are set out and summarised below:

Councils:

- In 2018/19, the funding gap was 3% of the total budget and more of this gap had to be met from use of reserves than was planned.

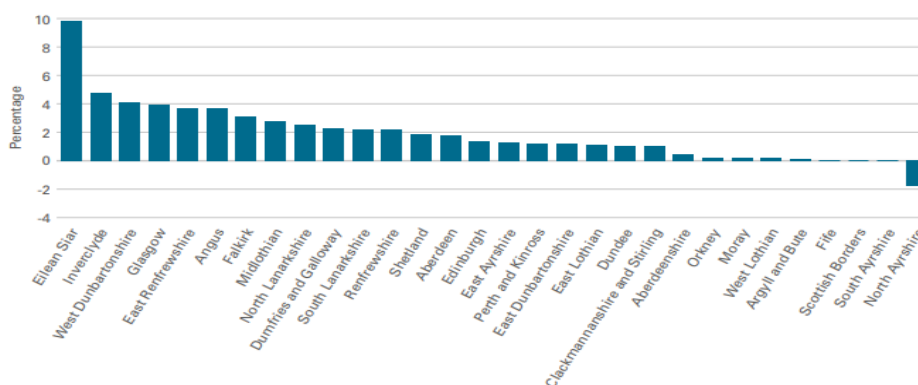
- Councils are increasingly drawing on their revenue reserves.
- A growing proportion of Scottish Government revenue funding to councils is committed to national policy initiatives.

IJBs:

- The majority of IJBs struggled to achieve break even in 2018/19, either recording a deficit or relying on additional funding from partners.
 - Around a third of IJBs failed to agree a budget with their partners for the start of the 2019/20 financial year.
 - Medium term financial planning is improving but no IJB has a financial plan that extends for more than five years.
 - Over a third of IJB senior staff have changed during 2018/19.
8. Part four of the report provides an overview of Integration Joint Boards for 2018/19. The report states that the pace of integration has been too slow and as a result there is limited evidence of any significant shift in spending from health to social care. Whilst budgets for IJBs increased by 3% in 2018/19, a funding gap of 2.9% remained with this reducing to 2.5% for 2019/20. Nineteen of the 31 IJBs required additional funding from partners at the year end in 2018/19.
 9. The report highlights that in 2019/20 around a third of IJBs failed to agree a budget with their partners for the start of the 2019/20 financial year. For many that did, the budget still had an element of unidentified savings in it. This is the position that Falkirk IJB was in for 2019/20.
 10. More IJBs now hold reserves and the report highlights these as a percentage of total spend in 2018/19. Falkirk holds the 7th highest percentage at 3.13% of spend.

Exhibit 13

Integration Joint Board reserves as a percentage of total spend, 2018/19
More IJBs (26) now hold a reserve, but this varies significantly.



Source: Audited financial statements 2018/19



11. Finally, the report notes wider governance issues focussing on the high turnover of senior staff within IJBs. The report notes the risk of leadership changes and capacity to the transformation of services and successful integration.

Conclusions

12. This report provides a summary of a number of national audit and inspection reports which have been recently published.

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 and principles 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.

Report Author

Approved for submission by: Patricia Cassidy, Chief Officer

Author of report – Amanda Templeman, Chief Finance Officer

List of Background Papers

The papers that may be referred to within the report or previous papers on the same or related subjects

Appendices

None