

Agenda Item 8

National Audit and Inspection Report Overview



1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report provides an overview of all national audit, scrutiny and inspection reports published since the previous Audit Committee meeting held on 25 September 2020. This report is a standing agenda item.
- 1.2 A total of 3 national reports and 2 Care Inspectorate inspection reports have been issued since the last meeting.

2. Recommendations

The Audit Committee is asked to:

- 2.1 note the content of this report.

3. Background

- 3.1 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 across a wide range of settings (such as the IJB or Clinical and Care Governance Committee) dependent on the nature of the report and the associated recommendations. However, it was also recognised that as a minimum, all national reports must be noted by Audit Committee and where action plans are required, these must be developed and monitored.
- 3.2 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.
- 3.3 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.

4. National Reports

4.1 The table below lists the National reports that have been issued since the last update presented to the September 2020 Audit Committee.

Author	Title of report	Publication Date	Reported to:
Audit Scotland	Equal Pay Review 2020	01/09/20	
Audit Scotland	Scrutiny Response to Covid-19	01/11/20	
Health & Sport Committee	More than 50% of the Scottish Budget - What are the expected outcomes from the Health and Social Care 2021-22 Budget	10/11/20	

4.2 The Audit Scotland report entitled “equal pay review 2020” examines equality of pay for Audit Scotland employees who are undertaking work of equal or similar value within their roles. This report is a statutory requirement under the Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties) (Scotland) Regulations 2012 and is published every 4 years. A total of 305 staff were employed by Audit Scotland as at 31 March 2020 (excluding the Auditor General for Scotland). Very few instances of equal pay variation were reported, but where this was observed, it was fully justified and no unfairness or discrimination was identified. In addition, Audit Scotland’s job evaluation process, pay banding structure, pay progression, flexible working policies and development opportunities were considered to be unbiased, supported by appropriate equality impact assessments. The report concludes that equal pay for work of equal value is achieved at Audit Scotland.

4.3 The Audit Scotland report entitled “Scrutiny Response to Covid-19” presents the Strategic Scrutiny Group (SSG) consideration of what Covid-19 means for the sustainability of the public services and discusses the impact on how scrutiny will operate in the future. Chaired by the Accounts Commission, the SSG is comprised of Scotland’s main public sector scrutiny bodies and aims to deliver efficient and effective, well-coordinated scrutiny that supports improvement. The report considers the following areas:

- the key risk areas facing Education, Health, Social Care, Housing, Fire and Justice,
- how scrutiny has been adapted in response to Covid-19;
- how to capitalise on the advances made in working practices in response to Covid-19;
- how we can build on the increased joint-working that has taken place by collaborating more extensively and effectively in future.

The report concludes that “regulation, inspection and audit of public services will play a key role in learning lessons from the past few months

and supporting improvement, so that the renewal of public services in Scotland is as strong and inclusive as possible”.

- 4.4 The Health and Sport Committee report entitled “More than 50% of the Scottish Budget - What are the expected outcomes from the Health and Social Care 2021-22 Budget?” summarises the Committee’s pre-budget scrutiny of the 2021-22 budget, with a particular focus on IJBs (following ongoing concerns raised by the Committee in relation to the overall lack of progress of integration). The report also considers the financial impact of Covid-19 and wider related health impacts and unintended consequences. The report makes a number of recommendations for the Scottish Government to consider as part 2021/22 budget decisions.

5. Inspection Reports

- 5.1 The table below presents the Inspection reports that have been issued since the last update presented to the September 2020 Audit Committee

Publication Date	Inspection	Inspection Date	Action Plan	Reported to
Burnbrae Care Home				
24/08/20	Care Inspectorate	Unannounced	-	CCGC Nov-20
Burnbrae Care Home				
08/10/20	Care Inspectorate	Unannounced	-	CCGC Nov-20

- 5.2 Under the duties placed on the Care Inspectorate (CI) by the Coronavirus (Scotland) (No.2) Act, the CI report to the Scottish Parliament fortnightly on their inspection activity. The reports set out which care home services were inspected during those two weeks and the findings of those inspections. A summary is presented below.

Publication Date	Service	Evaluation of Service	Further Action	Reported to
03/09/20	Burnbrae	Unannounced inspection of the care home on 20 August with staff from NHS Forth Valley Overall evaluation for key question 7 ‘How good is our care and support during the COVID-19 pandemic?’ – weak Quality indicator (QI) evaluations: QI 7.1 People’s health and wellbeing – Good QI 7.2 Infection prevention and control practices – Weak QI 7.3 Staffing arrangements – Good	Stirling and Clackmannanshire health and social care partnership were informed of CI findings.	CCGC Nov-20

17/09/20	No local services inspected			
01/10/20	No local services inspected			
15/10/20	No local services inspected			
29/10/20	Burnbrae	Visit to the home, with NHS Forth Valley, on 8 October. This was a follow-up inspection.	The service evaluations did not change.	CCGC Nov-20
12/11/20	No local services inspected			

6. Conclusions

- 6.1 This report provides a summary of all relevant national audit and inspection reports which have been published since the last Audit Committee meeting. The vast majority of the reports have already been considered by the Clinical Care Governance Committee and are therefore for noting.
- 6.2 However two reports published by Audit Scotland and one by the Health and Sport Committee require to be formally considered by the Audit Committee.

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

Directions

A new Direction or amendment to an existing Direction is not required as a result of the recommendations of this report.

Legal & Risk Implications

There are no specific legal implications arising from this report. The key risk implications relate to the potential risk of harm to service users, financial risk and reputational risk arising from failure to consider the findings of National Audit reports and Inspection reports.

Consultation

There are no consultation requirements arising from this report.

Equalities Assessment

There are no equality implications arising from this report.

7. Report Author

Jillian Thomson, Chief Finance Officer

8. List of Background Papers

N.A

9. Appendices

N.A