

AC21. Strategic Risk Register

The committee considered a report by the Chief Finance Officer which provided an update on the IJB's Strategic Risk Register.

There were 11 live risks recorded in the register of which 8 were currently considered as high risk and 3 as medium risk.

No new risks had been added to the register since it was considered by the Committee on 4 December 2020.

The committee asked what the impact of Covid-19 had been on staff recruitment and retention and what the likely impact would be once 'normality' returned. Ms Cassidy said that this was monitored constantly and where there had been gaps staff had been redeployed successfully – for example into Mental Health Units and Care Homes. A report on staffing would be presented to the Integration Joint Board in March. Sara Lacey added that she had established a short-life working group to look into Social Work recruitment and retention in light of the huge change that had been brought about by the pandemic in how people want to work. It was important that management understood this in order to develop a workforce strategy to support the changed needs of staff. A detailed workforce plan had been requested by the Scottish Government, due in March, and it was expected that this would set out plans for future years which took account of the impacts of Covid-19 across the partnership. Following a question in regard to the resilience of partnerships, for example with the 3rd sector Ms Cassidy advised that as part of the best value audit of Falkirk Council a number of self-assessments would be carried out, including with partner organisations, with a view to an Improvement Plan being submitted to the Integration Joint Board.

It was suggested by the committee that during the pandemic the public had found it difficult to make appointments with their G.P.s and that the systems put in place, such as telephone appointments with G.Ps or nurses had created a 'distance' and barrier between the community and its G.P.s. When asked when the system would return to pre-Covid-19 arrangements where appointments could be made, Ms Cassidy advised that this was a matter which was being considered both locally and nationally. The models which had been brought into place during the pandemic had challenged the longstanding model, but had brought benefits. It was important that the public could access the most appropriate service and this might not necessarily be the G.P. However, Ms Cassidy acknowledged that the public view could be different and it was important to understand this perception of the services provided.

Decision

The committee noted the draft strategic risk register set out in the appendix to the report and noted that it would be reviewed by the Senior Leadership Group in March 2021.