

Agenda Item 6

National Audit and Inspection Report Overview



Falkirk Integration Joint Board Audit Committee

3 December 2021

National Audit and Inspection Report Overview

For Consideration and Comment

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 23 September 2021. This report is a standing agenda item.
- 1.2 A total of 6 reports have been published since the last meeting (3 by Audit Scotland, 2 by the Accounts Commission and 1 by the Care Inspectorate).

2. Recommendations

The Audit Committee is asked to consider and comment on:

- 2.1 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 2021 Audit Committee.

Author	Title of Report	Publication Date	Reported To
Audit Scotland	Covid-19 Vaccination programme	01/09/21	A verbal update was provided to CCGC on 26 November 2021
Audit Scotland	Covid-19: Tracking the impact of Covid-19 on Scotland's public finances	15/09/21	Audit Committee 3 Dec 2021
Accounts Commission	Accounts Commission Strategy 2021-26	23/09/21	Audit Committee 3 Dec 2021
Accounts Commission	The impact of Covid-19 on Scottish councils' benefit services	07/10/21	Audit Committee 3 Dec 2021
Audit Scotland	Audit of NHS National Services Scotland	12/10/21	Audit Committee 3 Dec 2021

- 4.2 The Audit Scotland report entitled “*Covid-19 Vaccination Programme*” outlines the progress of the Covid-19 vaccination programme at September 2021 and considers the plans for the next phase of the rollout and beyond. A further update is expected in the new year as part of the annual NHS overview report. This will be considered by the Clinical and Care Governance Committee going forward.
- 4.3 The Audit Scotland report entitled “*Covid-19: Tracking the impact of Covid-19 on Scotland's public finances*” provides a summary of the costs and funding arrangements for the pandemic during 2020/21 and looks ahead to 2021/22. The figures are unaudited and suggest that the Scottish Government spent £8.8bn in 2020/21 on pandemic support (the largest areas of spend related to support for businesses, followed by health and social care and then local government). Audit Scotland will continue to monitor the position and further reports will be published in due course.
- 4.4 The report entitled “*Accounts Commission Strategy 2021-26*” sets out the aims and priorities of the Accounts Commission for the next 5 years. As part of the strategy, the Accounts Commission will aim to influence post-Covid recovery and will continue to provide assurance and support improvement in the performance of local government. The report highlights the following priority areas: inequalities, recovery, funding and communities and also outlines how the Accounts Commission will engage with stakeholders.
- 4.5 The Accounts Commission report entitled “*The impact of Covid-19 on Scottish council's benefits services*” summarises the output from a questionnaire that was issued to all 32 councils to assess the impact of Covid on the benefits service. This reflected the fact that council buildings were closed to the public and, where possible, staff were required to work from home in the initial stages of the pandemic. As a frontline service, this presented a significant challenge for benefit services as staff had to

manage personal responsibilities alongside delivering the service remotely. A response rate of 91% was achieved (Clackmannanshire Council, Orkney Islands Council, and Shetland Islands Council did not respond). The report makes a number of recommendations in relation to housing benefit and information technology. The report concludes that the transition to remote working did not result in a significant decline in claims processing accuracy.

- 4.6 The Audit Scotland report entitled “*Audit of NHS National Services Scotland*” summarises the findings of the external auditor in relation to NHS National Services Scotland’s (NSS) 2020/21 accounts. Of key interest in the report is the reference to the service audit in respect of Primary Care payments (pg 14). Service Audits are undertaken to provide assurance in relation to shared services that are operated by one public body on behalf of others. In this case, NSS administer and process a range of payments to primary care contractors on behalf of all 14 territorial NHS Boards in Scotland. The service auditor (Scott Moncrieff) provided a qualified opinion in relation to NSS’ control system for primary care payments. In response, NSS’ internal auditors conducted further testing. The external auditors were content with the results of the additional testing and this was shared with other NHS Boards. It was agreed nationally that this did not have any material impact on the accounts of other NHS Boards. Note that NSS have established a sub-committee of their Audit and Risk Committee to oversee the action plan to address the issues that contributed to the qualification. NHS Forth Valley will share information on progress with the IJB.

5. Inspection Reports

- 5.1 The following table presents the Inspection reports that have been issued since the last update presented to the September 2021 Audit Committee

Publication Date	Inspection		Inspection Date	Action Plan	Reported To
Caledonia Court 15 October 2021	Care Inspectorate	Unannounced	5 October 2021		Clinical and Care Governance Committee 26 Nov 2021

- 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
02/09/21	Wheatlands	Further inspection of the care home on 17 and 18 August 2021 to follow up on the requirements made during previous inspections. Overall evaluation for key question 1 ‘How well do we support people’s	Falkirk health and social care partnership were informed of CI findings.	

Publication Date	Service	Evaluation of Service	Further Action	Reported to
		<p>wellbeing? – Adequate</p> <p>Quality Indicator (QI) evaluation: QI 1.1 People experience compassion, dignity and respect – Good</p> <p>QI 1.3 People’s health benefits from their care and support – Adequate</p> <p>Overall evaluation for key question 3 ‘How good is our staff team?’ – Adequate</p> <p>Quality indicator (QI) evaluations: QI 3.3 Staffing levels are right, and staff work well together– Adequate</p> <p>Overall evaluation for key question 4 ‘How good is our setting?’ – Adequate</p> <p>Quality indicator (QI) evaluations: QI 4.1 People experience high quality facilities – Adequate</p> <p>Overall evaluation for key question 7 ‘How good is our care and support during the Covid-19 pandemic ?’ – Adequate</p> <p>Quality indicator (QI) evaluations: QI 7.2 Infection prevention and control practices - Adequate</p>		
16/09/21	Caledonia Court	<p>Inspection of the home on 31 and 1 September. A follow up visits will be made to monitor progress.</p> <p>Key question 1: How well do we support people’s wellbeing? - Adequate</p> <p>QI 1.1 People experience compassion, dignity and respect - Good</p> <p>QI 1.2 People get the most out of life - Good</p> <p>QI 1.3 People’s health benefits from their care and support – Adequate</p> <p>Key question 7 How good is our care and support during the Covid-19 pandemic? – Adequate</p> <p>QI 7.2 Infection prevention and control practices – Weak</p> <p>Q2 7.3 Staffing arrangements - Adequate</p>	Falkirk Health and Social Care partnership were informed of CI findings.	
30/09/21	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, the reports published by Audit 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