

## **Agenda Item 7**

# **National Audit and Inspection Report Overview**



## Falkirk Integration Joint Board Audit Committee

11 March 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 3 December 2021. This report is a standing agenda item.
- 1.2 A total of 10 reports have been published since the last meeting (3 by Audit Scotland, 1 by the Accounts Commission, 2 by the Scottish Government and 4 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 December 2021 Audit Committee.

Author	Title of Report	Publication Date	Reported To
Accounts Commission	<a href="#">Falkirk Council: Best Value Assurance Report</a>	13/01/22	IJB Audit Committee
Audit Scotland	<a href="#">Falkirk IJB Annual Audit Report 2020-2021</a>	27/01/22	IJB Audit Committee
Audit Scotland	<a href="#">Pension Fund Annual Audit Report 2020-21</a>	27/01/22	IJB Audit Committee
Audit Scotland	<a href="#">Social Care briefing</a>	27/01/22	IJB Audit Committee
Scottish Government	<a href="#">National Care Service consultation responses</a>	01/02/22	IJB Audit Committee
Scottish Government	<a href="#">National Care Service: consultation analysis</a>	10/02/22	IJB Audit

- 4.2 The purpose of the “**Falkirk Council: Best Value Assurance Report**” is to provide the Accounts Commission with assurance regarding Falkirk Council’s delivery of Best Value. Best Value was introduced as a statutory duty through the Local Government Scotland Act 2003 and forms part of the annual audit of every Local Authority. Findings are reported each year through the Annual Audit Report and the Controller of Audit will also present a Best Value Assurance Report to the Accounts Commission at least once during the five-year audit appointment for each Local Authority.

This is the first assurance report on Falkirk Council. The report concludes that Falkirk Council have made insufficient progress on key aspects of Best Value, including improving financial sustainability, performance management and reporting, community empowerment and equalities. The report also makes specific reference to the IJB and notes that increased collaborative working between Falkirk Council and NHS Forth Valley through the Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) as part of our Covid response has improved the effectiveness of the IJB and enabled further progress to shift the balance of care. However, it was noted that full integration of services still hasn’t been achieved and the overall pace of change remains slow. The report also makes reference to Adult Social Care and notes that this continues to be an area in which Falkirk performs relatively poorly compared with other Local Authorities in terms of delayed discharge indicators. This continues to be an area of key focus.

- 4.3 The report entitled “**IJB Annual Audit Report 2020-2021**” was published by Audit Scotland on 27 Jan 2022. The report presents the findings of the audit of the IJB’s 2020/21 annual financial statements and was previously discussed and approved by the IJB Audit Committee on 24 September 2021.

- 4.4 The report entitled “**Pension Fund Annual Audit Report 2020-21**” was published by Audit Scotland on 27 Jan 2022. The report presents the findings of the audit of the 2020/21 annual financial statements of the Falkirk Council Pension Fund. There are no direct implications for the IJB arising from this report.
- 4.5 The report entitled “**Social Care briefing**” was published by Audit Scotland on 27 Jan 2022 and highlights a number of challenges facing social care and the integration of health and social care more widely. These challenges include the importance of the service user’s perspective and voice, the fragility of the social care workforce, tensions between cost and quality in the commissioning of social care, instability of leadership and leaders failing to work effectively together, a lack of key data and ineffective use of existing data to inform decision-making, increasing financial challenges and threats to the sustainability of services, including lack of progress in shifting resources to preventative approaches. The report also highlights a number of significant developments in the sector, most notably: the Independent Review of Adult Social Care (IRASC), the Health and Sports Committee’s The Future of Social Care and Support in Scotland, the proposals for a new National Care Service and the Independent Care Review and its report “The Promise” published in February 2020, setting out improvements for how partner bodies can work together better to care for vulnerable children and their families. The report highlights the urgency of the current situation and acknowledges the work planned by the Scottish Government in these areas (recognising that the creation of a new national care service is likely to take several years to fully implement however change is required now). This report is therefore intended to help inform the Scottish Government and other stakeholders’ immediate planning for social care alongside longer-term plans for reform. Audit Scotland will follow this up with more detailed work in 2022/23.
- 4.6 The report entitled “**National Care Service Consultation Responses**” published on 1 February 2022, provides copies of all public responses received by the Scottish Government in respect of the recent National Care Service consultation (i.e. where permission from the author of the response has been given to publish it). A total of 1,291 responses were received with a significant proportion coming from individuals with lived experience, or bodies that represent them. Independent analysis of the responses was published separately on 10 February 2022.
- 4.7 The report entitled “**National Care Service: consultation analysis**” published on 10 February 2022, provides an independent analysis of all responses received (including those that were not published) as part of the consultation. In terms of implications for IJBs, around three quarters of the 435 respondents to the proposal to reform IJBs agreed that Community Health and Social Care Boards (CHSCB) should be the sole model for local delivery of community health and social care in Scotland. Benefits mentioned included greater standardisation across Scotland, as well as helping to improve equality of access to services, although some were concerned about the potential lack of local decision making and that a “one

size fits all" approach would not work. The majority of respondents also agreed that CHSCBs should also be aligned to Local Authority boundaries. There was a strong majority in support of the proposal that all Board members should have voting rights. A range of roles were suggested as potential members of the Boards, including people with lived experience and frontline workers. A large proportion agreed that the Boards should employ Chief Officers and their strategic planning staff directly. The findings of the consultation exercise will be used to shape and develop new legislation which is planned to be introduced in the Scottish Parliament in summer 2022. The legislation is likely to be extensive and complex and is likely to take at least a year to be scrutinised by the Parliament. The Scottish Government intend to fully implement the National Care Service by the end of the current Parliamentary term (by 2026).

## 5. Inspection Reports

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

Publication Date	Inspection		Inspection Date	Action Plan	Reported To
22/11/21	<a href="#">Summerford House</a>	Unannounced	10/11/21		CCGC Feb 2022
07/12/21	<a href="#">Summerford House</a>	Unannounced	01/12/21		CCGC Feb 2022
11/01/22	<a href="#">Housing with Care:Dorrator Court</a>	Unannounced	30/08/21		CCGC Feb 2022
31/01/22	<a href="#">Summerford House</a>	Unannounced	27/01/22		CCGC Feb 2022

## 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