

## **Agenda Item 8**

# **National Audit Report and Inspection Overview**



## **Falkirk Integration Joint Board Audit Committee**

**17 June 2022**

### **National Audit Report and Inspection 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 11 March 2022. This report is a standing agenda item.
- 1.2 A total of 7 reports have been published since the last meeting (3 by Audit Scotland, 1 by the Accounts Commission, and 3 by the Care Inspectorate).

#### **2. Recommendations**

The Audit Committee is asked to:

- 2.1 Consider and comment on 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 March 2022 Audit Committee.

Author	Title of Report	Publication Date	Reported To
Audit Scotland	<a href="#">NHS in Scotland 2021</a>	24/02/22	IJB Audit Committee
Audit Scotland	<a href="#">Addressing climate change in Scotland</a>	01/03/22	IJB Audit Committee
Audit Scotland	<a href="#">Drug and alcohol services: an update</a>	08/03/22	IJB Audit Committee
Accounts Commission	<a href="#">Local Government Financial overview 2020/21</a>	10/03/22	IJB Audit Committee

- 4.2 Audit Scotland's "*NHS in Scotland 2021*" report summarises the ongoing pandemic response and the Scottish Government's recovery plans for the NHS in terms how services might be delivered in the future to better meet changing demand. The report looks back on financial performance across the NHS in Scotland during 2020/21 and considers the financial challenges that lie ahead. Key messages from the report include the capacity challenges associated with the growing backlog of patients waiting for treatment, the need for integrated health and social care workforce planning, the ongoing issues associated with a lack of robust and reliable data across several key service areas and overall financial sustainability challenges.
- 4.3 Audit Scotland's "*Addressing climate change in Scotland*" report summarises the key themes identified from a number published national reports containing specific environmental/climate change recommendations for Scotland. This is designed to provide an overview of the key improvements that need to be made across the public sector if Scotland is to reach its climate change ambitions of a just transition to net zero and can adapt to improve resilience from the effects of global warming that we are already experiencing. As a public body the IJB must take cognisance of these recommendations in the forthcoming refresh of the strategic plan.
- 4.4 The Audit Scotland report entitled "*Drug and alcohol services: an update*" provides an overview of progress to tackle the high rates of ill health and deaths in Scotland from drug and alcohol-related problems. The report concludes that progress to address these challenges has been slow and cites a lack of drive and leadership within the Scottish Government. The report highlights recent investment in Alcohol and Drug Partnerships (ADPs) in respect of the drug deaths taskforce and other new evidence-based treatments and standards but recognises that it is too early to assess their effectiveness. It is recommended that more focus is needed on addressing the root causes of drug and alcohol dependency and breaking the cycle of harm affecting multiple generations across communities. The report also recommends that the Scottish Government needs to set out a clear integrated plan on how additional investment can be used most effectively and demonstrate how it is improving outcomes. The report will be considered by Falkirk ADP as part of future service planning.

- 4.5 The Audit Scotland report entitled “*Local Government Financial overview 2020/21*” provides a high-level independent analysis of the financial performance of Councils during 2020/21 and includes commentary on the financial outlook in the medium and longer term. Note that a second report detailing Councils’ response to and recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, will be published in May 2022. The report confirms the significant additional Covid funding received by Councils during 2020/21 and explains that when this is removed from the position, a real term underlying reduction of 4.2% in local government funding since 2013/14 is evident. In terms of future years, the report describes how uncertainty over the amount of funding available for Covid-19 recovery at the end of 2020/21 led to difficulties in setting budgets, and many councils established updated Covid-19 budgets in autumn 2021. In addition, Covid-19 resulted in revised medium-term financial plans, but longer-term planning will need to be updated as Covid-19 uncertainty diminishes. The IJB’s strategic plan is due to be refreshed during 2022/23 and this will be accompanied by a revised medium term financial plan to reflect the post pandemic operating environment and a number of significant policy developments in relation to adult social care.

## 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 March 2022 Audit Committee. Note these reports are routinely presented to the Clinical and Care Governance Committee and all associated action plans are monitored by the HSCP Senior Leadership Team.

Publication Date	Inspection	Inspection Date	Action Plan	Reported To
05/05/2022	<a href="#">Falkirk Council - Care and Support at Home – Central Locality</a>	08/02/22		CCGC May 2022
05/05/2022	<a href="#">Falkirk Council - Care and Support at Home - East Locality</a>	08/02/22		CCGC May 2022
05/05/2022	<a href="#">Falkirk Council - Care and Support at Home - West Locality</a>	08/02/22		CCGC May 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. Local Care Inspectorate reports are reported to Clinical Care Governance Committee. Improvement plans are monitored at HSCP Senior Leadership Team. The vast majority of the reports noted above have already been considered by the Clinical Care Governance Committee.
- 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**

7.1 Jillian Thomson, Chief Finance Officer

## **8. List of Background Papers**

8.1 None

## **9. Appendices**

N/A