

## **Agenda Item 6**

### **National Audit Report and Inspection Overview**



# Falkirk Integration Joint Board Audit Committee

2 December 2022

## National Audit Report and Inspection Overview

For consideration and comment

### 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report provides an overview of national audit, scrutiny and inspection reports published since the previous Audit Committee meeting held on 23 September 2022. This report is a standing agenda item.
- 1.2 A total of 6 reports have been published since the last meeting (4 by Audit Scotland, 1 by the Accounts Commission and 1 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 September 2022 Audit Committee.

Author	Title of Report	Publication Date	Reported To
Audit Scotland	<a href="#">The National Fraud Initiative in Scotland 2022</a>	18/08/22	IJB Audit Committee
Audit Scotland	<a href="#">Scotland's councils' approach to addressing climate change</a>	08/09/22	IJB Audit Committee
Accounts Commission	<a href="#">Briefing: Tackling child poverty</a>	22/09/22	IJB Audit Committee
Audit Scotland	<a href="#">Annual diversity report 2021/22</a>	29/09/22	IJB Audit Committee
Audit Scotland	<a href="#">Radical action needed on data</a>	01/11/22	IJB Audit Committee

- 4.2 The Audit Scotland report entitled “The National Fraud Initiative in Scotland 2022” aims to prevent and detect fraud through the national fraud initiative (NFI), which shares and matches data held by public bodies. The 2020/21 NFI exercise identified outcomes valued at £14.9m. This is £0.4m lower than the previous exercise in 2018/19 and could be due to less fraud and error in the system, stronger internal controls and/or due to some key data sets from the previous exercise not being included in the 2020/21 NFI. Residential care home data, direct payments and social care customers’ data were not matched in the 2020/21 exercise due to a legal question being raised around the definition of patient data.

NFI participants include all councils, NHS bodies, colleges and all larger central government bodies, for example, the Scottish Government, Revenue Scotland and Transport Scotland. Having fewer outcomes provides some assurance there does not appear to be significant problems in the areas covered by the exercise. However, participants still benefit from the deterrent effect the NFI creates.

- 4.3 The Audit Scotland report entitled “Scotland's councils' approach to addressing climate change” notes big differences in the targets councils have set and their timescales for reaching net zero. The report includes a number of exhibits and case studies and makes 5 recommendations. The report notes that Falkirk Council has set a net zero target for its own emissions by 2030, one of 9 councils to agree this timeline.
- 4.4 The Accounts Commission report entitled “Briefing: Tackling child poverty” notes that the Scottish Government has not yet demonstrated a clear shift to preventing child poverty. The briefing notes that it is not possible to assess the success of the Scottish Government’s first 4 year plan to reduce child poverty due in part to the impact of covid-19 which means data is only available to the halfway point of the plan. The briefing calls for detailed joint planning between Scottish Government and local government to deliver the actions and evaluate their impact.
- 4.5 The Audit Scotland report entitled “Annual diversity report 2021/22” is the annual diversity report for Audit Scotland itself however it includes useful national comparators and illustrates the measures Audit Scotland takes to monitor and improve workplace diversity.

4.6 The Audit Scotland publication entitled “Radical action needed on data” notes that inequality is on the rise, an ageing population is increasing the pressure on health and care services, the cost-of-living crisis is putting a strain on household budgets, while the climate emergency is demanding unprecedented change. There is also much still to do to meet the ambitions of Christie and focus on prevention and longer-term outcomes. The publication observes that data is a vital tool that can help leaders tackle these complex and longstanding issues. It identifies the following current actions:

- A new data strategy for health and social care is due to be published in early 2023
- Public bodies are participating in a data maturity pathway to understand where they are and what they need to do
- There is emerging work on data standards and developing data catalogues in local government.
- Innovative programmes such as the Data for Children Collaborative with UNICEF is mapping data based on ‘what matters’ for children and families.

How the public sector is addressing data gaps and building data as a national asset will be a continued focus for Audit Scotland.

## 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 September 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
19/08/22	<a href="#">Summerford House</a>	16 and 17 August 2022		CCGC Aug 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.

6.2 However, the Audit & Inspection reports published nationally 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 Steven Kirkwood, Chief Finance Officer

## 8. List of Background Papers

8.1 None

## 9. Appendices

N/A