

Scottish Borders Health & Social Care
Integration Joint Board Audit Committee



Meeting Date: 7 December 2020

Report By	SB IJB Chief Internal Auditor
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PROGRESS UPDATE ON DELIVERY OF INTERNAL AUDIT ANNUAL PLAN 2020/21 FOR SCOTTISH BORDERS HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD

Purpose of Report:	To present an update on progress with the delivery of the Internal Audit Annual Plan 2020/21 for the Scottish Borders Health and Social Care Integration Joint Board (SBIJB) and to set out a list of Internal Audit reports by partners' Internal Auditors presented to their respective Audit Committees which are relevant to SBIJB for assurance purposes.
Recommendations:	<p>The Scottish Borders Health & Social Care Integration Joint Board Audit Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) consider whether it is satisfied with the progress made in the first six months of the year to deliver the approved Scottish Borders Health and Social Care Integration Joint Board Internal Audit Annual Plan 2020/21 (Appendix 1); and (b) consider the list of Internal Audit reports by partners' Internal Auditors presented to their respective Audit Committees that are relevant to SBIJB for assurance purposes (Appendix 2), consider the assurances contained therein, and provide any commentary thereon.
Personnel:	The Internal Audit service to SBIJB is provided by Scottish Borders Council's Internal Audit team. Staff assigned to perform the SBIJB Internal Audit work hold relevant professional qualifications and have the necessary experience, knowledge, skills and competencies (such as the Code of Ethics set out in the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS)) needed to deliver the plan.
Carers:	There is no direct impact on carers arising from the contents of this report.
Equalities:	There are no direct equalities and diversities implications for the SBIJB arising from the contents of this report.

Financial:	There are no direct financial implications for the SBIJB arising from the contents of this report.
Legal:	<p>The Scottish Borders Health and Social Care Integration Joint Board (SBIJB), established as a separate legal entity as required by the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014, is responsible for the strategic planning and commissioning of a wide range of integrated health and social care services across the Scottish Borders partnership area, based on resources which have been delegated to it by the partners, Scottish Borders Council and NHS Borders.</p> <p>The SBIJB is therefore expected to operate under public sector good practice governance arrangements which are proportionate to its transactions and responsibilities to ensure the achievement of the objectives of Integration. The establishment of robust Risk Management and Audit arrangements is one of the key components of good governance and will be critical to the capacity of the SBIJB to function effectively.</p>
Risk Implications:	<p>Key components of the audit planning process include a clear understanding of the SBIJB's functions, associated risks, and potential range and breadth of audit areas for inclusion within the plan. As in previous years, the SBIJB Internal Audit Annual Plan 2020/21 has been informed by the risks, controls and mitigation actions as set out within the SBIJB's Strategic Risk Register to ensure that Internal Audit plans are risk-based and provide relevant assurance. Furthermore, key stakeholders have been consulted and the Audit Plan has been informed by key developments at both a national and local level and other relevant background information, for example the Strategic Plan. Discussions with the SBIJB's Chief Officer and interim Chief Finance Officer will continue on a regular basis to ensure Internal Audit assurance meet the needs of the SBIJB and Management and other key stakeholders.</p> <p>The PSIAS require Internal Audit to evaluate the effectiveness of the SBIJB's Risk Management arrangements and contribute to improvements in the process. Each Internal Audit assignment will be risk-based and will test the SBIJB's management of risk.</p> <p>The SBIJB Internal Audit Annual Plan 2020/21 should be considered to be flexible and has been periodically reviewed to ensure it reflects any new arrangement or changing risks and priorities. There are no amendments at this time relating to the SBIJB Internal Audit Annual Plan 2020/21 that require approval by the SBIJB Audit Committee.</p> <p>It is anticipated that improvements in the management and mitigation of risks will arise as a direct result of SBIJB Management implementing the Internal Audit recommendations made during the year or outstanding from previous years.</p> <p>In addition to its own governance arrangements, the SBIJB</p>

	places reliance on the governance arrangements adopted by NHS Borders and Scottish Borders Council, the partners. Where appropriate, existing mechanisms embedded within both NHS Borders and Scottish Borders Council will continue to be used to provide assurance to the SBIJB.
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Background

- 1.1 The Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS) require the SBIJB's Chief Internal Auditor to prepare an annual report that incorporates the statutory audit opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of SBIJB's framework of governance, risk management and control, a summary of the work that supports the opinion, and a statement on conformance with the PSIAS.
- 1.2 The Scottish Borders IJB Internal Audit Annual Plan 2020/21 approved by the SBIJB Audit Committee on 9 March 2020 includes sufficient work to enable the SBIJB Chief Internal Auditor to prepare the statutory independent and objective audit opinion to the year ending 31 March 2021.
- 1.3 In addition to its own governance arrangements, the SBIJB places reliance on the governance arrangements adopted by NHS Borders and Scottish Borders Council, the partners. This includes the existing mechanisms embedded within both NHS Borders and Scottish Borders Council for provision of Internal Audit assurances to their respective Audit Committees.

2 Progress Update

- 2.1 The Appendix 1 to this report provides details of the half yearly progress by Internal Audit with its work activity to deliver the approved SBIJB Internal Audit Annual Plan 2020/21. Those audits which are underway to reflect their continuous audit approach are highlighted in light shading and those scheduled for the second half of the year are not shaded. The SBIJB Internal Audit Annual Plan 2020/21 should be considered to be flexible and has been periodically reviewed to ensure it reflects any new arrangement or changing risks and priorities. There has been a delay to one element of the Internal Audit work due to Covid-19 during the first half of the year though this has been rescheduled. There are no amendments at this time relating to the SBIJB Internal Audit Annual Plan 2020/21 that require approval by the SBIJB Audit Committee, though there is a change of format.
- 2.2 The continuous audit approach which is applied to Internal Audit work for the SBIJB enables Internal Audit to provide added value advice on internal controls and governance and 'critical friend' consultancy services as the SBIJB continues to develop its governance and transforms its service delivery.
- 2.3 The Appendix 2 to this report provides the list of Internal Audit reports by partners' Internal Auditors presented to their respective Audit Committees that are relevant to SBIJB for assurance purposes with a summary of assurances contained therein. The SBIJB Chief Internal Auditor will take account of these assurances from partners' Internal Auditors to provide assurance to the SBIJB.