

*Scottish Borders Health & Social Care  
Integration Joint Board Audit Committee*



Meeting Date: 14 March 2022

<b>Report By:</b>	Chris Myers, IJB Chief Officer
<b>Contact:</b>	Jill Stacey, IJB Chief Internal Auditor (Chief Officer Audit and Risk, Scottish Borders Council)
<b>Telephone:</b>	
<b>AUDIT SCOTLAND – RECENT AUDIT REPORTS OF INTEREST</b>	
<b>Purpose of Report:</b>	To highlight to members of the IJB Audit Committee, for their scrutiny and oversight, the national audit reports on areas of interest to the IJB by the Accounts Commission, Auditor General for Scotland, or Audit Scotland that have been recently published on the Audit Scotland website.
<b>Recommendations:</b>	The Health & Social Care Integration Joint Board Audit Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) <b>Note</b> the key messages in the national audit reports: and</li> <li>b) <b>Consider</b> if any actions arising from these reports should be brought to the attention of the IJB.</li> </ul>
<b>Personnel:</b>	This report highlights the national reports by the Accounts Commission, Auditor General for Scotland or Audit Scotland, relating to public audit in Scotland, on areas of interest to the IJB.
<b>Carers:</b>	There are no direct carers' impacts arising from the report.
<b>Equalities:</b>	There are no equalities impacts arising from the report.
<b>Financial:</b>	There are no direct financial implications arising from the proposals in this report.
<b>Legal:</b>	There are no direct legal implications arising from the contents of this report.
<b>Risk Implications:</b>	The role of the IJB Audit Committee includes the high level oversight of the adequacy and effectiveness of the IJB's internal controls and corporate governance arrangements including risk management. To fulfil this remit, it seeks assurance from other external scrutiny, audit and inspection agencies as outlined in this report.

## Background and Main Report

- 1.1 The publications on the Audit Scotland website by the Accounts Commission, Auditor General for Scotland or Audit Scotland, relating to public audit in Scotland, are reviewed regularly by officers and those reports that may be of interest to the Committee are highlighted below for its attention.
- 1.2 The Planning for Skills report by the Auditor General for Scotland was published on 20 January 2022  
[Planning for skills \(audit-scotland.gov.uk\)](https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/publications/planning-for-skills)  
The Scottish Government needs to take urgent action to ensure essential progress in improving how workforce skills are planned and provided.
- 1.3 The Social Care Briefing by the Auditor General for Scotland and the Accounts Commission was published on 27 January 2022  
[Social care briefing \(audit-scotland.gov.uk\)](https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/publications/social-care-briefing)  
Urgent action needed to address critical issues in delivery of social care services. Action is needed now to change how Scotland's social care services are delivered so that it meets the needs, and improves the experience of, people relying on care and support.
- 1.4 The NHS in Scotland 2021 report by the Auditor General for Scotland was published on 24 February 2022  
[NHS in Scotland 2021 \(audit-scotland.gov.uk\)](https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/publications/nhs-in-scotland-2021)  
The Scottish Government must focus on transforming health and social care services to address the growing cost of the NHS and its recovery from Covid-19. Improving the NHS will be very difficult against the competing demands of the pandemic and an increasing number of other policy initiatives, including plans for a National Care Service.