

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



Meeting Date: 20 June 2022

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| Report By: | Chris Myers, Chief Officer Health & Social Care |
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| ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2020/21 OF THE SCOTTISH BORDERS HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD | |
| Purpose of Report: | This report proposes that the IJB Audit Committee considers and approves the Annual Governance Statement 2020/21 of the Scottish Borders Health and Social Care Integration Joint Board that will be published in the Annual Report and Accounts. |
| 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 the details of the Annual Governance Statement 2020/21 for the Scottish Borders Health and Social Care Integration Joint Board (Appendix 1) to ensure it reflects the risk environment and governance in place to achieve objectives, and acknowledges the actions identified by Management to improve internal controls and governance arrangements; and b) Approve that it be published in the Annual Report and Accounts 2020/21 of the Scottish Borders Health and Social Care Integration Joint Board. |
| Personnel: | <p>The roles and responsibilities of Board members and statutory officers and the processes to govern the conduct of the Board's business are defined in the approved Scheme of Integration, Constitution and Standing Orders to make sure that public business is conducted with fairness and integrity. The Board has a standalone Terms of Reference setting out its remit.</p> <p>The Chief Officer is responsible for ensuring that agreed procedures are followed and that all applicable statutes and regulations are complied with.</p> |
| Carers: | There is no direct impact on carers arising from the contents of this report. |
| Equalities: | There are no direct equalities and diversities implications arising from the contents of this report. |

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| Financial: | There are no direct financial implications arising from the contents of this report. |
| Legal: | <p>The Scottish Borders Health and Social Care Integration Joint Board, 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.</p> <p>The IJB is required to review the effectiveness of its existing governance arrangements against its Local Code of Corporate Governance, and prepare a governance statement and report compliance on an annual basis. This is set out in the Annual Governance Statement 2020/21.</p> |
| Risk Implications: | <p>The Annual Governance Statement 2020/21 details areas where additional work would further enhance the internal control environment, or improve risk management, and corporate governance arrangements.</p> <p>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. Where appropriate, existing mechanisms embedded within both NHS Borders and Scottish Borders Council have been used to provide assurance to the SBIJB.</p> |

1 Background

- 1.1 The IJB is responsible for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for and used economically, efficiently and effectively.
- 1.2 The IJB approved a revised Local Code of Corporate Governance in September 2018, on recommendation by this Committee, which helps to ensure proper arrangements continue to be in place to meet these responsibilities. The Local Code is consistent with the principles and requirements of the CIPFA/SOLACE Framework 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government' (2016) which is deemed appropriate for the IJB under the legislative framework for integration authorities.
- 1.3 Fundamentally, Corporate Governance is about openness, integrity and accountability. It comprises the systems and processes, and cultures and values by

which the authority is directed and controlled and through which it accounts to, engages with and, where appropriate, leads its communities.

- 1.4 The CIPFA/SOLACE Framework urges authorities to review the effectiveness of their existing governance arrangements against their Local Code, and prepare a governance statement and report compliance on an annual basis.
- 1.5 Part of the IJB Audit Committee's remit is to assess the adequacy and effectiveness of the IJB's internal controls and corporate governance arrangements against the good governance framework and consider the annual governance reports and assurances to ensure that the highest standards of probity and public accountability are demonstrated. This includes to 'Be satisfied that the authority's assurance statements, including the Annual Governance Statement, properly reflect the risk environment and any actions required to improve it, and demonstrate how governance supports the achievements of the authority's objectives'¹.

2 Annual Governance Statement 2020/21

- 2.1 The Annual Governance Statement 2020/21 (Appendix 1), in compliance with the CIPFA/SOLACE Framework, provides details of the IJB's Governance Framework, the annual Review of Framework undertaken, Improvement Areas of Governance, and Overall Opinion.
- 2.2 In terms of overall corporate governance it is the Chief Officer's opinion that, although there are a few areas of work to be completed for full compliance with the Local Code, the overall governance arrangements of the IJB are operating adequately. The Annual Governance Statement 2020/21 is informed by the work of Internal Audit, External Audit and Inspection agencies, and existing governance and assurance mechanisms embedded within both NHS Borders and Scottish Borders Council.

¹ CIPFA guidance note for local authorities 'Audit Committees' (2018)