

Scottish Borders Health and Social Care Partnership Integration Joint Board Audit Committee

20 March 2023

Audit Scotland Report

Report by Hazel Robertson, Chief Finance Officer, HSCP and IJB



1. PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

1.1. To provide report from Audit Scotland for information.- overview of the NHS in Scotland.

- Publication: NHS in Scotland 2022
- Date: February 23, 2023 by Auditor General
- Full transparency on NHS recovery needed. The Scottish Government needs to be clearer about how long it will take the NHS to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic and to reform services.
- The government's NHS recovery plan aims to reduce the healthcare backlog and change how services are delivered. But the plan doesn't contain the detailed actions that would allow progress to be accurately measured. It also lacks robust modelling to understand demand on services and the NHS's capacity to meet that demand.

The report is heavily focussed on treatment waiting times which are not delegated services however the report has some content that is of interest to the IJB.

The report is available online as below

[NHS in Scotland 2022 | Audit Scotland \(audit-scotland.gov.uk\)](https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/nhs-in-scotland-2022)

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1. **The Scottish Borders Health and Social Care Integration Joint Board (IJB) Audit Committee is asked to:-**

- a) Note the NHS in Scotland 2022 Audit Scotland Report.

3. ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND WAYS OF WORKING

3.1. It is expected that the proposal will impact on the Health and Social Care Strategic Framework Objectives and Ways of Working below:

Alignment to our strategic objectives					
Rising to the workforce challenge	Improving access	Focusing on early intervention and prevention	Supporting unpaid carers	Improving our effectiveness and thinking differently to meet need with less	Reducing poverty and inequalities
x	x			x	

Alignment to our ways of working					
People at the heart of everything we do	Good agile teamwork and ways of working – Team Borders approach	Delivering quality, sustainable, seamless services	Dignity and respect	Care and compassion	Inclusive co-productive and fair with openness, honesty and responsibility
	x	x			

4. INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD DIRECTION

4.1. A Direction is not required.

5. BACKGROUND

5.1. This report is the annual overview of the NHS in Scotland, published by Audit Scotland. It presents recommendations for the Scotland Government and the service.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GOVERNMENT AND THE SERVICE

6.1. The Scottish Government should:

- publish a revised medium-term financial framework (MTFF) for health and social care that clearly aligns with the medium-term financial strategy (MTFS) for the entire Scottish Government, as soon as possible after the next MTFS is published, to determine what financial resources will be available and to give a clear understanding of potential financial scenarios (paragraph 18).
- as soon as possible, complete work on modelling demand and capacity in the NHS in Scotland to inform planning for future service delivery, taking into consideration demographic change, service redesign options and anticipated workforce capacity (paragraph 75).
- revisit its NHS Recovery Plan commitments annually and use its annual progress updates to report clearly and transparently on what progress has been made and whether those commitments, or the targets and delivery timeframes related to them, need to change and why (paragraph 86).
- ensure that targets for tackling the backlog of care are clear, publish accessible and meaningful information about how long people will have to wait for treatment, and urgently explore all options to provide support to the most vulnerable people waiting for treatment to minimise the negative impact on their health and wellbeing (paragraphs 71, 101 and 106).
- publish annual progress updates on the reform of services, showing the effectiveness and value for money of new innovations and ways of delivering NHS services (paragraph 136 to 138).

6.2. The Scottish Government and NHS boards should:

- work with partners in the social care sector to progress a long-term, sustainable solution for reducing delayed discharges from hospital (paragraph 39).
- ensure focus on staff retention measures is maintained, including wellbeing support, and continually look at ways to increase the impact of these measures (paragraph 50).

- work together more collaboratively on boards' delivery, financial and workforce plans to maximise boards' potential to achieve the ambitions in the NHS Recovery Plan, by balancing national and local priorities against available resources and capacity and setting realistic expectations for the public (paragraph 78). Recommendations
- urgently implement a programme of engagement with the public to enable an open discussion about the challenges facing the health sector in Scotland and help inform future priorities and how the delivery of services will change (paragraph 139).

7. IMPACTS

Community Health and Wellbeing Outcomes

7.1. The intention of this report is to provide a focus for improvement of health services therefore should indirectly impact on the National Health and Wellbeing Outcomes below:

N	Outcome description	Increase / Decrease / No impact
1	People are able to look after and improve their own health and wellbeing and live in good health for longer.	Increase
2	People, including those with disabilities or long term conditions, or who are frail, are able to live, as far as reasonably practicable, independently and at home or in a homely setting in their community.	Increase
3	People who use health and social care services have positive experiences of those services, and have their dignity respected.	Increase
4	Health and social care services are centred on helping to maintain or improve the quality of life of people who use those services.	Increase
5	Health and social care services contribute to reducing health inequalities.	Increase
6	People who provide unpaid care are supported to look after their own health and wellbeing, including to reduce any negative impact of their caring role on their own health and well-being.	Increase
7	People who use health and social care services are safe from harm.	Increase
8	People who work in health and social care services feel engaged with the work they do and are supported to continuously improve the information, support, care and treatment they provide.	Increase
9	Resources are used effectively and efficiently in the provision of health and social care services.	Increase

Financial impacts

7.2. There are no costs attached to any of the recommendations contained in this report.

Equality, Human Rights and Fairer Scotland Duty

7.3. An assessment against these duties is not required as this is a national overview report.

Legislative considerations

7.4. None

Climate Change and Sustainability

7.5. None.

Risk and Mitigations

7.6. No specific risks as this is a national overview,

8. CONSULTATION

Communities consulted

8.1. Not relevant.

Integration Joint Board Officers consulted

8.2. Not relevant.

Approved by:

Hazel Robertson, Chief Finance Officer

Author(s)

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Background Papers [NHS in Scotland 2022 \(audit-scotland.gov.uk\)](https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk)

Previous Minute Reference: not applicable

For more information on this report, contact us at

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