

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

19 June 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 – Local Government in Scotland: Overview.

Publication: Local Government in Scotland 2023

Date: May 17, 2023 by Accounts Commission

- Adult social care. There are signs that the sector is in crisis, with growing backlogs, declining satisfaction and no clear picture of demand or unmet need.
- Our population is also getting older. Life expectancy and healthy life expectancy are falling.
- Pressures are deepening after the Covid-19 pandemic rather than easing.
- Finances - Costs are going up and the amount of money councils receive to run services is set to get less.
- Local needs. Changing demographics, the pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis increase pressure on council services at a time when councils have less capacity to support them.
- Workforce. Councils are finding it difficult to recruit the staff they need to run some services, in particular social care. There are also high sickness absence levels.
- Councils need to work with local people and be open about the need for change. This will affect the way services are provided in the future. Communities must be involved in these conversation and work with councils to make difficult choices about the future of their local services.

The report has some content that is of interest to the IJB.

The report is available online as below

[Local government in Scotland: Overview 2023 | Audit Scotland \(audit-scotland.gov.uk\)](https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/local-government-in-scotland/overview-2023)

### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

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

- a) Note the Local Government 2023 Accounts Commission 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	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	x			

#### 4. INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD DIRECTION

4.1. A Direction is not required.

#### 5. BACKGROUND

5.1. This report is the annual overview of Local Government in Scotland, published by the Accounts Commission. It presents recommendations for the Scottish Government and the sector.

#### 6. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GOVERNMENT, COMMUNITIES AND THE SERVICE

6.1. Communities need to get involved

6.2. Councils need to work with local people and be open about the need for change. This will affect the way services are provided in the future.

6.3. Communities must be involved in these conversation and work with councils to make difficult choices about the future of their local services.

6.4. Action is needed now

- Councils need to radically rethink how they can work together, and with local partners, to provide services and meet wider ambitions to tackle climate change, child poverty and inequalities.
- This could mean councils working together to provide services.
- Councils also need to better understand the experience of service users, and work with communities to redesign services.
- Councils need to build on the many innovative ways of working seen during the pandemic. To deliver sustainable services, councils need:
  - flexible funding and resources
  - driven leadership
  - greater collaboration
  - a resilient workforce

a focus on community needs and inequalities

- o support improvement, the Accounts Commission have developed two supplements for councils:
  - a collection of case studies to illustrate issues and practice across councils
  - a checklist with questions for elected members, to help in their scrutiny and decision-making roles and in their work with council executives.

## 7. IMPACTS

### Community Health and Wellbeing Outcomes

7.1. The intention of this report is to provide a focus for improve ment 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)**

Hazel Robertson, Chief Finance Officer

### **Background Papers**

[Local government in Scotland: Overview 2023 \(audit-scotland.gov.uk\)](https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/local-government-in-scotland-overview-2023)

**Previous Minute Reference:** not applicable

For more information on this report, contact us at

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