



## **PERTH AND KINROSS INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD**

### **AUDIT & PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE**

**24 JUNE 2024**

### **ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT**

**Report by Chief Finance Officer  
(Report No. G/24/97)**

#### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

The purpose of the report is to seek approval of the Annual Governance Statement for the financial year 2023/24 which provides assurance as to the effectiveness of the Integration Joint Board's (IJB) governance framework and in particular the system of internal control.

#### **1. RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- 1.1 It is recommended that the Audit and Performance Committee:
- (i) Approve the 2023/24 Annual Governance Statement for inclusion in the unaudited Annual Accounts.

#### **2. SITUATION / BACKGROUND / MAIN ISSUES**

- 2.1 On an annual basis the IJB has to include an Annual Governance Statement (AGS) (Appendix 1) within its Annual Accounts.
- 2.2 The purpose of the AGS is to give assurance to our stakeholders that we have effective governance arrangements in place to ensure that, as an IJB, we are doing the right things for the right people at the right time in an open, honest and accountable way.
- 2.3 Reliance is also placed on the systems of internal control of NHS Tayside, Perth & Kinross Council, and Angus and Dundee IJB's. These support compliance with each organisations' policies and promote achievement of organisational aims and objectives.

- 2.4 The AGS provides an opportunity to review our rules, resources, systems, processes, culture and values to make sure that our governance framework and, in particular, our system of internal control is:
- legally compliant
  - ethically sound; and
  - fit for its purpose
- thereby enabling the IJB to achieve its strategic objectives and facilitates the provision of high quality services that meet the needs of our communities, in an appropriate, efficient and affordable way. It is important therefore, that governance issues are identified systematically and comprehensively and reported in an open and transparent manner.

### 3. PROPOSALS

- 3.1 The process for reviewing the integrity and effectiveness of our governance arrangements to inform the AGS has been led by the Chief Finance Officer. Evidence has been gathered by way of self-assessment and progress
- 3.2 The self-assessment and Partnership Improvement Plan identified many areas of progress which have been highlighted clearly in the AGS.
- 3.3 However, a number of areas for further improvement have also been identified. These will be considered for inclusion in PKHSCP's Partnership Improvement Plan.
- 3.4 The Partnership Improvement Plan is presented separately to the Audit and Performance Committee for scrutiny and assurance.

### 4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The assurance process has demonstrated that the IJB has in place adequate and effective internal controls that are considered fit for their purpose in accordance with the governance framework.
- 4.2 The process has been successful in identifying areas for improvement which will further strengthen the IJB's governance arrangements.
- 4.3 These further areas of governance improvements will form additional key elements of the Partnership Improvement Plan as it rolls forward to 2024/25.

#### Author(s)

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### **APPENDIX**

Appendix 1 - Draft Annual Governance Statement 2023-24