



PERTH AND KINROSS INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD

AUDIT & PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

13 SEPTEMBER 2021

ASSURANCES RECEIVED FROM PARTNERS

Report by Head of Finance and Corporate Services

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

In compiling the Integration Joint Board's Annual Governance statement, reference was made to receipt of assurance from NHS Tayside and Perth and Kinross Council regarding their governance arrangements noting that Perth and Kinross Integration Joint Board (IJB) is reliant on both Partners to deliver the IJB's overall aims and objectives. This report provides an update on those assurances.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Integration Joint Board Audit & Performance Committee:-

- (i) Note that the IJB has issued confirmation of the adequacy and effectiveness of the governance arrangements in place within Perth and Kinross IJB for 2020/21 to NHS Tayside, Perth and Kinross Council and the 2 Tayside IJBs.
- (ii) Note the position re confirmation of the assurance from NHS Tayside and Perth and Kinross Council;
- (iii) Note the position re confirmation of the assurance from Dundee and Angus IJB's;
- (iv) Note the specific assurance from NHS Tayside in relation to Clinical Care Governance;
- (v) Note that the status of assurances from NHS Tayside, Perth and Kinross Council, Dundee IJB and Angus IJB is consistent with the contents of the IJB's Governance Statement in the audited Annual Accounts.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 On an annual basis the IJB has to include a Governance Statement within its Annual Accounts. Perth and Kinross IJB Audit and Performance Committee considered Perth and Kinross IJB's Draft 2020/21 Annual Governance Statement at its June 2021 meeting (paper G/21/82). Perth and Kinross IJB had committed

to provide assurances on our governance arrangements to NHS Tayside, Perth and Kinross Council and the other Tayside IJBs (reflecting Perth and Kinross IJB's hosting of Tayside wide delegated services on behalf of these IJBs). This was duly completed in August 2021.

2.2 It has been agreed with NHS Tayside that they would share their 2020/21 Annual Governance Statement with Perth & Kinross IJB as the vehicle for providing assurance. NHS Tayside's Annual Governance Statement was considered within Annual Accounts approved at NHS Tayside's Board meeting of on 26th August 2021 along with the External Audit Annual Report 2020/21 which issues an unqualified opinion. The Annual Governance Statement concluded by noting:- "As the appointed Accountable Officer, I am able to conclude with the ongoing improvement work undertaken throughout the year, as evidenced above, the governance framework, the assurances and evidence received from the Board's committees, that corporate governance continues to be strengthened and internal controls were operating adequately and effectively throughout the financial year ended 31 March, 2021." This consequently provides the required assurance to Perth & Kinross IJB regarding governance arrangements in place within NHS Tayside and the effectiveness of internal controls including procurement and fraud.

2.3 The Convenor of Perth & Kinross Council's (PKC) Audit Committee has written to the Chair of the Audit and Performance Committee providing assurance on PKC governance arrangements for 2020/21. This is attached at Appendix 1. The correspondence states '...The Annual Governance Statement is audited as part of the 2020/21 Annual Accounts by the Council's external auditors, KPMG. In their Draft Annual Audit Report to Members and the Controller of Audit for the year ended 31 March 2021 KPMG conclude that the "Council's governance arrangements operate effectively" and "the Annual Governance Statement shows an appropriate and accurate reflection of the governance arrangements at the Council".

The audit of the PKC 2020/21 19/20 Annual Accounts is substantially complete and KPMG plan to issue an unqualified audit opinion following the anticipated approval of the Accounts at the meeting of the Audit Committee on 20 September 2021. This consequently provides the required assurance to Perth & Kinross IJB regarding the effectiveness of governance arrangements within Perth & Kinross Council and the effectiveness of internal controls including procurement and fraud.

2.4 Formal correspondence regarding assurance has been received from the Chair of Angus IJB confirming that adequate and effective governance arrangements were in place throughout Angus IJB during 2020/21. This is attached at Appendix 2. Formal correspondence concerning the adequacy of Dundee IJB's systems of internal control is expected to be received by PKIJB after the completion of their External Audit, expected by the end of November 2021. A verbal update on this will be provided to this Committee at its next meeting in December 2021.

2.5 Perth & Kinross IJB's 2020/21 Annual Governance Statement was amended following the June Audit and Performance meeting to reflect ongoing work around Clinical Care Governance Assurance to the IJB. This is now marked as an improvement action as follows: "Review and embed a process for ensuring regular assurance is provided to the IJB that NHS Tayside and Perth & Kinross

Council are effectively managing and monitoring clinical care and professional risk.” As such a level of assurance has been received in relation to Care Governance through the receipt of the Annual Report of the Care Governance Committee 2020/2021 attached at Appendix 3.

3 CONCLUSION

- 3.1 The IJB’s Audit and Performance Committee should note the assurance that has been received from all partners confirming the adequacy and effectiveness of the governance arrangements which were in place during 2020/20, including a specific level of assurance in relation to Clinical Care Governance, and that Perth & Kinross IJB has provided assurance to all parties that adequate and effective governance arrangements were in place during 2020/21.

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APPENDICES

1. Letter of Assurance 2020/21 from Perth & Kinross Council
2. Letter of Assurance from Angus IJB to PKIJB
3. Annual Report of the Care Governance Committee 2020/2021