



AUDIT & PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

28 November 2022

INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT – PRIMARY CARE

Report by Chief Internal Auditor
(Report No G/22/170)

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide the Audit & Performance Committee with an update on progress with finalising the report relating to Perth & Kinross' Primary Care Improvement Plan.

1. BACKGROUND

An audit of the Primary Care Improvement Plan was approved as part of the Internal Audit Plan for 2021/22 ([Report G/21/81](#) refers). The scope of this work was to provide assurance to the IJB over the arrangements in place for the implementation of the Primary Care Improvement Plan. Assignments connected with the strategic risks relating to Sustainability of Primary Care Services were also commissioned by NHS Tayside and Angus IJB. Therefore, to ensure that there was no duplication of audit effort and to ensure that a wholistic approach was taken, the Internal Audit team in the NHS undertook these assignments as a combined assignment and the report drafted incorporates these wider aspects.

As this report has been long-awaited by this Committee, and as it has been presented to the Audit & Risk Committee of NHS Tayside in its draft final form, the same report is being presented for consideration at this meeting.

2. PROGRESS WITH AGREEING THE REPORT

The draft report was issued on 19 May 2022 and has been widely circulated to NHS Tayside and IJB colleagues for comment. The Chief Officer of Angus IJB, who is also Co-Chair of the Primary Care Board, has provided management responses to address the recommendations in the report.

However, this is a complex, multifaceted report covering many disparate areas which itself reflects the complexity of the nature of Primary Care Services and its associated risk factors. It is important therefore, that the response has ownership from all key parties and that it fully addresses the issues raised in the report. A meeting was held with representatives from all bodies to consider the report and the wider issues raised and a draft response has been prepared by the lead officer. However, it has not yet been possible to discuss the response and achieve sign-up from all partners and therefore the report is presented as a draft final.

It should be noted by this Committee that reasonable assurance can be placed on the arrangements in place in relation to Perth & Kinross' Primary Care Improvement Plan (page 4 of the report) and that the commentary in Section 3, Detailed Findings and Information on page 26, also highlights some areas of good practice. No specific actions arise from this aspect of the report. It should also be noted that Perth & Kinross Health and Social Care Partnership officers have had limited involvement in agreeing the content of the action plan.

The final report will be circulated to Audit & Performance Committee members once complete. Any significant amendments to this report and the action plan will be reported to the next meeting of the Audit and Performance Committee.

3. RECOMMENDATION

The Audit & Performance Committee is asked to note:

1. The contents of the draft final report for the wider review of the strategic risks relating to Primary Care, which incorporates the review of Perth & Kinross' Primary Care Improvement Plan;
2. The final report will be shared with members of this Committee at the earliest opportunity; and
3. Any significant amendments to this report and action plan will be reported to the next meeting of the Audit & Performance Committee.

4. CONSULTATION

The Chief Finance Officer has been consulted on the content of this paper.

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APPENDICES

1. FTF Internal Audit Service's draft final report on Sustainability of Primary Care Services