

ITEM No ...4.....
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**REPORT TO:** HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD –  
19<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2025

**REPORT ON:** PERFORMANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE CHAIR'S ASSURANCE REPORT

**REPORT BY:** CHAIR, PERFORMANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

**REPORT NO:** DIJB5-2025

This assurance report relates to the meeting of the Performance and Audit Committee (PAC) of the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025.

Decisions made by the Committee:

- To instruct the Chief Finance Officer to implement the recommendations of the Internal Audit Report on Workforce.

Overview of Committee Business:

- The Health and Social Care Partnership's quarter 2 (2024-25) Performance Report was presented and scrutinised by the Committee resulting in further queries from members including the sustainability of the good performance around delayed discharge given the budget situation and the lack of some key indicator information which sits with the Scottish Government to gather and provide.
- The Clinical, Care and Professional Governance Assurance report was presented to the Committee. Again, this provided the Committee with a further opportunity to probe further into some of the issues raised with a focus on the workforce risks identified in particular. The Committee requested that the Chief Officer presents an update on the Care Opinion roll out to a future meeting of the PAC. The Committee was content with the Reasonable level of assurance of clinical and care governance arrangements in place that the report provided.
- The Committee received further detailed performance reports on 3 further areas of the Health and Social Care Partnership's services – Mental Health, Drug and Alcohol and Unscheduled Care. The Mental Health report set out to the Committee the real challenges being faced within services. The Drug and Alcohol services indicators report lead to a discussion around a potential Safe Consumption Facility in the city following the opening of a similar centre in Glasgow. It was noted that this would be considered initially by the Alcohol and Drug Partnership before being brought to the IJB should this be explored further. In relation to Unscheduled care, the Committee was pleased to see the continued excellent performance in Dundee in relation to standard delays.
- The IJB's Strategic Risk Register Update report was presented which noted a new emerging risk of the impact of the UK Government's changes to Employers National Insurance contributions in relation to the social care market should there be no additional funding provided to support the sector. The Committee heard this issue continued to be discussed nationally.
- The Committee was presented with an Internal Audit Report on Workforce which related to a review of the IJB's Workforce Planning arrangements. The review made 5 recommendations to respond to a range of weaknesses and gaps in the current planning arrangements identified by Internal Audit. The HSCP management team has accepted these recommendations and agreed to a number of actions to respond to these which the Committee will monitor through the Governance Action Plan process.

- The Committee received progress reports in relation to the Governance Action Plan and the Internal Audit Plan and noted that the Workforce Audit completes the reviews agreed as part of the 23/24 audit plan and the addition of the actions from this to the Governance Action Plan. The Internal Audit Plan progress report included a number of audits undertaken by the partner bodies which were assessed as being relevant to the IJB under the audit sharing protocol. A review of Dundee City Council's absence management and staff wellbeing arrangements was of particular interest to the Committee given previous discussions on the impact of absence levels within the HSCP workforce and the limited assurance the internal audit review had provided of those arrangements.

In summary, as Chair I am content that the range of issues presented to the Committee in relation to performance, audit and governance provides the IJB with a reasonable level of assurance that overall risks and performance are being managed effectively.

Bob Benson  
Chair

16 February 2025