

Integrated Care Board

Date of meeting	13 November 2024			
Title of paper	Audit Committee: Escalation and Assurance Report			
Presented by	Jim Birrell, Committee Chair			
Author	Board Secretary and Committee Officers			
Agenda item	19			
Confidential	No			
Executive summary				
<p>This report highlights key matters, issues, and risks discussed at the ICB Audit Committee meeting, held on 26 September 2024, to alert, advise and assure the Board.</p> <p>The summary report highlights issues, items referred or escalated to other committees or to the Board.</p> <p>Minutes approved by the committee to date are presented to the Board to provide assurance that they have met in accordance with their terms of reference and to advise the Board of business transacted at their meetings.</p>				
Recommendations				
<p>The Board is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the Alert, Advise and Assure Audit Committee report and approve any recommendations as listed • Note the items referred from Audit committee to other committees over the reporting period • Note the ratified minutes of the committee meeting held on 25 July 2024. 				
Which Strategic Objective/s does the report relate to:			Tick	
SO1	Improve quality, including safety, clinical outcomes, and patient experience		✓	
SO2	To equalise opportunities and clinical outcomes across the area		✓	
SO3	Make working in Lancashire and South Cumbria an attractive and desirable option for existing and potential employees		✓	
SO4	Meet financial targets and deliver improved productivity		✓	
SO5	Meet national and locally determined performance standards and targets		✓	
SO6	To develop and implement ambitious, deliverable strategies		✓	
Implications				
	Yes	No	N/A	Comments
Associated risks		✓		
Are associated risks detailed on the ICB Risk Register?			✓	
Financial Implications			✓	
Where paper has been discussed (list other committees/forums that have discussed this paper)				
Meeting	Date	Outcomes		
Audit Committee meeting	26 September 2024	To provide the Board of committee business during this period.		

Conflicts of interest associated with this report				
Not applicable.				
Impact assessments				
	Yes	No	N/A	Comments
Quality impact assessment completed			✓	
Equality impact assessment completed			✓	
Data privacy impact assessment completed			✓	

Report authorised by:	ICB Committee Chair
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Integrated Care Board – 13 November 2024

Committee Escalation and Assurance Report

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report highlights key matters, issues, and risks discussed at the ICB Audit Committee meetings held since the last report to the Board on 11 September 2024, to alert, advise and assure the Board.
- 1.2 The summary report also highlights any issues, items referred or escalated to other committees or to the Board.
- 1.2 Minutes approved by the committee to date are presented to the Board to provide assurance that they have met in accordance with their terms of reference and to advise the Board of business transacted at meetings.

2. Audit Committee Report and Approved Minutes

Date: 26 September 2024		Chair: Jim Birrell
Key Items Discussed		
Item	Issue	Action
Alert		
Deep Dive into All Age Continuing Care (AACC)	The Committee was encouraged by the information presented outlining the assurances and controls that underpin the extensive work being undertaken on AACC. Whilst noting the complexity of the service, including the need to work closely with other bodies, the team were commended on the significant improvements made on a wide range of quality indicators. With regards to finance, the Committee was assured that schemes have been identified to deliver the designated QIPP contribution. However, it also noted that the necessary resourcing of the project is not fully identified and/or in place, which undermines the confidence of delivering within the target timescale.	Board to note <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • areas of positive assurance; • quality improvements made;. • ongoing complexity of the service; • the high risks associated with delivery of the QIPP target.
Advise		
Completed internal audit reviews	Three completed reviews were received: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CHC follow-up Quarter 1 – assurance rating not applicable 	Board to note.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguarding – moderate assurance • Scheme of Reservation and Delegation Review – briefing note. 	
Freedom of Information requests, (FOIs)	The ICB continues to receive a high number of FOI requests - 42 in July and 34 in August. A more detailed report will be presented to the Quality Committee outlining themes and/or issues that could require wider consideration.	Quality Committee to review in due course.
Mandatory Training	Two separate reports to the Committee, (Managing Conflicts of Interest and Safeguarding), mentioned a relatively low level of staff compliance with basic mandatory training. Whilst noting some mitigating factors, the Committee asked that action be taken to improve performance in this area.	Board to note and People Committee to monitor progress.
Assure		
Managing Conflicts of Interest, (including gifts and hospitality)	The Committee supported the amendments to the Conflicts of Interest Policy that will be submitted to the Board for ratification in November.	Board to note Committee's support when reviewing the revised policy .

Appendix A – Approved minutes of the Audit Committee meeting held on 25 July 2024: [Appendix A-Approved ICB Audit Committee Minutes-25 July 2024.pdf](#)

3.0 Summary of items or issues referred to other committees or the Board over the reporting period

Committee	Item or Issue	Referred to
Audit Committee – 26 September 2024	Mandatory Training - Two separate reports to the Committee, (Managing Conflicts of Interest and Safeguarding), mentioned a relatively low level of staff compliance with basic mandatory training. Whilst noting some mitigating factors, the Committee asked that action be taken to improve performance in this area.	Board to note and People Committee to monitor progress
Audit Committee – 26 September 2024	Business Case Process - The ICB lacked a formalised business case process or documentation to support decision-making on future investments. Agreed that it would be part of the PMO office for Transformation and Recovery. A process is written up regarding prioritisation and commissioning which would be checked against the business case required processes and brought to relevant committees for approval.	Finance and Performance Committee – January 2025 meeting

4.0 Conclusion

4.1 The Audit Committee has conducted its business in line with the terms of reference and associated business plans.

5.0 Recommendations

5.1 The Board is requested to:

- Note the Alert, Advise and Assure within the committee report and approve any recommendations as listed.
- Note the items referred from Audit committee to other committees over the reporting period
- Note the ratified minutes of the Audit Committee meeting held on 25 July 2024.

**Committee Chair
November 2024**