

## Integrated Care Board

<b>Date of meeting</b>	15 January 2025			
<b>Title of paper</b>	Audit Committee: Escalation and Assurance Report			
<b>Presented by</b>	Jim Birrell, Committee Chair			
<b>Author</b>	Board Secretary and Committee Officers			
<b>Agenda item</b>	16			
<b>Confidential</b>	No			
<b>Executive summary</b>				
<p>This report highlights key matters, issues, and risks discussed at the ICB Audit Committee meeting, held on 19 December 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>				
<b>Recommendations</b>				
<p>The Board is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Note the Alert, Advise and Assure Audit Committee report and approve any recommendations as listed</li> <li>• Note the items referred from Audit committee to other committees over the reporting period</li> <li>• Note the ratified minutes of the committee meeting held on 25 July 2024.</li> </ul>				
<b>Which Strategic Objective/s does the report relate to:</b>			<b>Tick</b>	
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		✓	
<b>Implications</b>				
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Associated risks		✓		
Are associated risks detailed on the ICB Risk Register?			✓	
Financial Implications			✓	
<b>Where paper has been discussed (list other committees/forums that have discussed this paper)</b>				
<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>		
Audit Committee meeting	19 December 2024	To provide the Board of committee business during this period.		
<b>Conflicts of interest associated with this report</b>				
Not applicable.				

Impact assessments				
	Yes	No	N/A	Comments
Quality impact assessment completed			✓	
Equality impact assessment completed			✓	
Data privacy impact assessment completed			✓	

<b>Report authorised by:</b>	ICB Audit Committee Chair
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# Integrated Care Board – 15 January 2025

## 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 13 November 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

<b>Date: 19 December 2024</b>		<b>Chair: Jim Birrell</b>
<b>Key Items Discussed</b>		
<b>Item</b>	<b>Issue</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>Alert</b>		
<b>Alert All Age Continuing Care (AACC)</b>	<p>Further to the Committee's alert to the Board regarding the outcome of its deep dive into AACC, MIAA's Quarter 2 report on the subject included five high priority recommendations. In brief, they covered: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A need to clarify the BAF risk target</li> <li>• Develop a clearer understanding of the drivers behind the financial variances</li> <li>• Determine the next steps to follow up the data analytics exercise commissioned from MIAA</li> <li>• Ensure there is sufficient resource to develop the in-house audit programme</li> <li>• Design Place-based reporting arrangements for management of reviews.</li> </ul> <p>With regards to the management of AACC, the Committee was pleased to learn that a recent review has resulted in enhanced financial and commercial capabilities within the team.</p>	<p>Board to note.</p> <p>Quality and F&amp;P Committees to ensure recommendations are actioned effectively</p>

<b>Advise</b>		
<b>Completed internal audit reviews</b>	<p>Six completed reviews were received –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CHC follow-up Quarter 2 – assurance rating not applicable but see Alert above</li> <li>• Quality of commissioned Maternity &amp; Neonatal Services – <b>moderate assurance</b></li> <li>• Risk Management – <b>substantial assurance</b></li> <li>• Assurance Framework Phase 1 – assurance rating not applicable but the report confirms that the structure of the Assurance Framework is appropriate and the associated review processes are robust</li> <li>• Health Inequalities – <b>moderate assurance</b></li> <li>• Workforce Controls – Pre-employment Checks – <b>substantial assurance</b></li> </ul>	Board to note
<b>Board Assurance Framework, (BAF), and Risk Management Update</b>	<p>The Committee noted the continuing development of the ICB's risk management arrangements and recognised the need for an early discussion on incorporating system-wide risks, particularly finance, into the ICB's risk register.</p> <p>The importance of using the BAF to monitor the delivery of the Strategic Objectives was reiterated.</p>	<p>Consider the inclusion of system-wide risks within the ICB's risk register.</p> <p>Ensure delivery of Strategic Objectives is regularly reviewed.</p>
<b>External and Internal Audit Services</b>	<p>Having assessed past performance and considered alternatives, the Committee agreed that the current arrangements for internal and external audit be extended.</p>	Board to note
<b>Assure</b>		
<b>Assurance Mapping</b>	<p>The seven key deliverable areas previously assessed as offering limited assurance are now all assessed as moderate assurance. It is proposed that the exercise be repeated early in the new financial year.</p>	Company Secretary to progress

<b>Information Governance</b>	Subject to some minor amendments, the Committee approved updates to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the Data Protection and Security Policy;</li> <li>the Information Governance Handbook; and</li> <li>the Information Governance Code of Conduct</li> </ul>	Revised documents to be widely circulated
<b>Committee Effectiveness</b>	A recent review suggests that Committees have developed effective ways of interacting, including the use of appropriate cross-Committee referrals.	Board to note
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Potential risks associated with the application of Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning, (AI/ML)</b></li> </ul>	Whilst noting the need for education and upskilling across the ICB, the Committee was informed that there are no current critical issues in terms of AI/ML. Any future procurements will, inter alia, be subjected to a detailed security assessment.	Consideration to be given to arranging a Board development session on digital that includes AI/ML

- **Appendix A** – Approved minutes of the Audit Committee meeting held on 26 September 2024: [Appx A - FINAL ICB Audit Committee Minutes - 26 September 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
N/A		

### 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 26 September 2024.

**Committee Chair**  
**January 2025**