



Aberdeen City Health & Social Care Partnership
A caring partnership



Internal Audit

Risk, Audit and Performance Committee Internal Audit Update Report June 2024

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1 Executive Summary

1.1 Introduction and background

Internal Audit's primary role is to provide independent and objective assurance on the Council's risk management, control, and governance processes. This requires a continuous rolling review and appraisal of the internal controls of the Board involving the examination and evaluation of the adequacy of systems of risk management, control, and governance, making recommendations for improvement where appropriate. Reports are produced relating to each audit assignment and these are provided to the Risk, Audit and Performance (RAP) Committee. Along with other evidence, these reports are used in forming an annual opinion on the adequacy of risk management, control, and governance processes.

This report advises the RAP Committee of Internal Audit's work since the last update. Details are provided of the progress against the approved 2023/24 Internal Audit plan, audit recommendations follow up, and other relevant matters for the Committee to be aware of.

1.2 Highlights

Full details are provided in the body of this report however Internal Audit would like to bring to the Committee's attention that since the last update:

- Work is underway with regards to delivery of the 2023/24 Internal Audit Plan.
- Work is underway by Management with regards to the implementation of agreed audit recommendations.

1.3 Action requested of the RAP Committee

The Committee is requested to note the contents of this report and the work of Internal Audit since the last update.

2 Internal Audit Progress

2.1 2023/24 Audits

Service	Audit Area	Position
Council Led HSCP Services	Social Care Financial Assessments	Review In Progress

2.2 Follow up of audit recommendations

Public Sector Internal Audit Standards require that Internal Audit report the results of its activities to the Committee and establishes a follow-up process to monitor and ensure that management actions have been effectively implemented.

As at 31 March 2024 (the baseline for our exercise), three audit recommendations were due, all rated Major.

Appendix 1 – Grading of Recommendations provides the definitions of each of the ratings used. Appendix 2 – Audit Recommendations Follow Up – Outstanding Actions provides a detailed breakdown of the outstanding audit recommendations that will be taken forward and followed up as part of the next cycle.

3 Appendix 1 – Grading of Recommendations

Risk level	Definition
Corporate	This issue / risk level impacts the Council as a whole. Mitigating actions should be taken at the Senior Leadership level.
Function	This issue / risk level has implications at the functional level and the potential to impact across a range of services. They could be mitigated through the redeployment of resources or a change of policy within a given function.
Cluster	This issue / risk level impacts a particular Service or Cluster. Mitigating actions should be implemented by the responsible Chief Officer.
Programme and Project	This issue / risk level impacts the programme or project that has been reviewed. Mitigating actions should be taken at the level of the programme or project concerned.

Net risk rating	Description	Assurance assessment
Minor	A sound system of governance, risk management and control exists, with internal controls operating effectively and being consistently applied to support the achievement of objectives in the area audited.	Substantial
Moderate	There is a generally sound system of governance, risk management and control in place. Some issues, non-compliance or scope for improvement were identified, which may put at risk the achievement of objectives in the area audited.	Reasonable
Major	Significant gaps, weaknesses or non-compliance were identified. Improvement is required to the system of governance, risk management and control to effectively manage risks to the achievement of objectives in the area audited.	Limited
Severe	Immediate action is required to address fundamental gaps, weaknesses or non-compliance identified. The system of governance, risk management and control is inadequate to effectively manage risks to the achievement of objectives in the area audited.	Minimal

Individual issue / risk	Definitions
Minor	Although the element of internal control is satisfactory there is scope for improvement. Addressing this issue is considered desirable and should result in enhanced control or better value for money. Action should be taken within a 12 month period.
Moderate	An element of control is missing or only partial in nature. The existence of the weakness identified has an impact on the audited area's adequacy and effectiveness. Action should be taken within a six month period.
Major	The absence of, or failure to comply with, an appropriate internal control, such as those described in the Board's Scheme of Governance. This could result in, for example, a material financial loss, a breach of legislative requirements or reputational damage to the Board. Action should be taken within three months.
Severe	This is an issue / risk that is likely to significantly affect the achievement of one or many of the Board's objectives or could impact the effectiveness or efficiency of the Board's activities or processes. Examples include a material recurring breach of legislative requirements or actions that will likely result in a material financial loss or significant reputational damage to the Board. Action is considered imperative to ensure that the Board is not exposed to severe risks and should be taken immediately.

4 Appendix 2 – Audit Recommendations Follow Up – Outstanding Actions

Overall Report Area	Report	Grading	Recommendation	Original Due Date	Current Due Date	Committee Update	Status
Adults with Incapacity - Management of Funds	AC2314	Major	1.1a – The Service should document and implement procedures in respect of DWP appointeeship, Intervention Orders, Access to funds, guardianship and POA in dealing with Adults with Incapacity. The Service should ensure these are clear, efficient, provide practical guidance on day-to-day management of funds, and are subject to periodic recorded reviews. Staff required to apply the procedures should be adequately trained in their application.	Jan-24	Jun-24	8 separate AWI Training sessions have been organised. These will take place during April/May/June. 165 social work staff will complete this mandatory AWI training. New procedures regarding Guardianship, Intervention Orders, Power of Attorney, Corporate Appointee Ship have been written. These will be produced and delivered at the AWI training sessions. All new AWI related documents will be stored in the new AWI team's channel which all staff will have access to. This has been extended to June 24.	In progress
Adults with Incapacity - Management of Funds	AC2314	Major	1.3 – The Service should review the appointeeship process to ensure it reflects the requirements of the scheme, and minimises intervention where possible. As part of the review the Service should ensure all interventions are subject to secondary review to ensure they are appropriate in line with policy and procedure in	Mar-24	Mar-24	Management has advised that the new ACC Corporate Appointeeship procedure was finalised this week at the Short Life Working Group. It is now being tested by operational social workers in some adult service test sights. No evidence has been provided of implementation or further update received.	In progress

Overall Report Area	Report	Grading	Recommendation	Original Due Date	Current Due Date	Committee Update	Status
			advance of their implementation.				
Adults with Incapacity - Management of Funds	AC2314	Major	1.5 – The Service should ensure there is a clear and consistent audit trail for all instances where funds are managed on behalf of service users. This should be subject to periodic reconciliation against other records (e.g. bank statements, cash balances, inventories, DWP data and other source documentation), and potential discrepancies escalated and the results and actions recorded.	Feb-24	Feb-24	Management has advised the ACC payment controls team which oversees the corporate appointment ship accounts continue to carry out regular reconciliation checks on all CA accounts. Within the new CA procedure it outlines that all CA accounts will now be monitored and reviewed by the client's allocated social worker. No evidence has been provided of implementation or further update received.	In progress