



AUDIT AND PERFORMANCE SYSTEMS COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	28.05.2019
Report Title	Internal Audit Report AC1920 – National Care Home Contract
Report Number	HSCP/19/015
Lead Officer	David Hughes, Chief Internal Auditor
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Consultation Checklist Completed	Yes
Directions Required	No
Appendices	None

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to present the outcome from the planned audit of the National Care Home Contract that was included in the 2018/19 Internal Audit Plan for Aberdeen City Council.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. It is recommended that the Audit & Performance Systems Committee review, discuss and comment on the issues raised within this report.

3. Summary of Key Information

- 3.1. The following summary of the Internal Audit report relating to the National Care Home Contract was considered by the Council's Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Committee on 14 February 2019. After some discussion of the issues identified, the Committee noted the report and endorsed the recommendations for improvement.



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- 3.2. The National Care Home Contract (NCHC) provides for agreement between providers of care facilities and Local Authorities for the provision of care facilities for those who have been assessed as requiring residential care. The agreement sets out the contractual obligations and responsibilities of each party and sets out minimum levels of monitoring which must be carried out on the provider by the Local Authority primarily to ensure quality of care towards clients who are resident in the provider's establishment.
- 3.3. The objective of this audit was to ensure that adequate monitoring of Suppliers is occurring in order to ensure continuity and quality of service provision and that contingency plans are in place to deal with any event which may see residents either temporarily or permanently displaced from the Care Home in which they are resident.
- 3.4. In general, contract monitoring is sufficient to meet the needs of the Service. However, some elements included in the NCHC are not well recorded. The NCHC predates changes to Procurement Legislation and the Integration of Health and Social Care, and a review is planned nationally during 2019/20 for implementation in 2020/21. At a Partnership level assurance is being obtained over Home and Provider activity, however this is not always being fully captured within contract monitoring records.
- 3.5. The Service commenced a review of its monitoring procedures in August 2018, in recognition of system complexities and limited resources impacting on the achievability of planned reviews, which have also been identified in this audit. Changes are planned to be implemented by April 2019, and the Service has agreed to add reference to capturing additional assurances and sources of information. Other improvements, including financial risk assessments and a review of Providers' contingency planning will be subject to further investigation by the Service as to the most appropriate method of implementation.



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4. Implications for IJB

- 4.1. **Equalities** – An equality impact assessment is not required because the reason for this report is for Committee to discuss, review and comment on the contents of an Internal Audit report and there will be no differential impact, as a result of this report, on people with protected characteristics.
- 4.2. **Fairer Scotland Duty** – there are no direct implications arising from this report.
- 4.3. **Financial** – there are no direct implications arising from this report.
- 4.4. **Workforce** - there are no direct implications arising from this report.
- 4.5. **Legal** – there are no direct implications arising from this report.
- 4.6. Other - NA

5. Links to ACHSCP Strategic Plan

- 5.1. Ensuring effective performance reporting and use of Key Performance Indicators will help the IJB deliver on all strategic priorities as identified in its strategic plan.

6. Management of Risk

- 6.1. **Identified risks(s):** The Internal Audit process considers risks involved in the areas subject to review. Any risk implications identified through the Internal Audit process are as detailed in the resultant report.
- 6.2. **Link to risks on strategic risk register:** There is a risk of financial failure, that demand outstrips budget and IJB cannot deliver on priorities, statutory work, and projects an overspend.
- 6.3. **How might the content of this report impact or mitigate these risks:** Where risks have been identified during the Internal Audit process, recommendations have been made to management in order to mitigate these risks.