

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE PARTNERSHIP BOARD AUDIT AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

At a Hybrid Meeting of the West Dunbartonshire Health and Social Care Partnership Board Audit and Performance Committee held in the Civic Space, 16 Church Street, Dumbarton on Tuesday, 23 September 2025 at 2.00 p.m.

Present: Michelle Wailes and Libby Cairns; NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde; Councillors Fiona Hennebry, Michelle McGinty and Martin Rooney; West Dunbartonshire Council.

Attending: Beth Culshaw, Chief Officer; Julie Slavin, Chief Financial Officer; Andi Priestman, Chief Internal Auditor; Tom Reid, External Auditors – Forvis Mazars

Also Attending: Margaret-Jane Cardno, Head of Strategy and Transformation; Sylvia Chatfield, Head of Mental Health, Addictions and Learning Disabilities; Fiona Wilson, Clinical Director; Fiona Taylor, Head of Health and Community Care; Helen Little, Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy Manager and Val Tierney, Chief Nurse and Natalie Roger, Committee Officer.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Lesley McDonald, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde; Anne MacDougall, Stakeholder Member and Michael McDougall, Manager of Legal Services.

Councillor Fiona Hennebry in the Chair

STATEMENT BY CHAIR

Councillor Fiona Hennebry, Chair advised that the meeting was being audio streamed and broadcast live to the internet and would be available for playback.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

It was noted that there were no Declarations of Interest in any of the items of business on the agenda however, Councillor Michelle McGinty made a Transparency Statement noting a connection to matters discussed at Item 11, however, noting that having applied the objective test, it does not amount to an interest.

RECORDING OF VOTES

The Committee agreed that all votes taken during the meeting would be done by roll call vote to ensure an accurate record.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of Meeting of the West Dunbartonshire Health and Social Care Partnership Board Audit and Performance Committee held on 25 June 2025 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

ROLLING ACTION LIST

A Rolling Action List for the Committee was submitted for information and relevant updates were noted and agreed.

PROPOSED ANNUAL AUDIT REPORT 2024/25

A report was submitted by Julie Slavin, Chief Financial Officer presenting for review, the formal responses to information requests to those charged with governance and senior management from the external auditor Forvis Mazars.

After discussion and having heard the Chief Financial Officer and the External Auditor in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to provide assurance to Forvis Mazars that the responses made in the information requests to those charged with governance and senior management remain unchanged since their submissions in June and August respectively;
- (2) the contents of the proposed Annual Audit Report to the Board and the Controller of Audit for the financial year ended 31 March 2025;
- (3) to note the expected audit opinion of an unqualified audit, without modification on the financial statements;
- (4) the key messages, the recommendations and agreed management actions; and
- (5) to provide assurance to the HSCP Board that after consideration of both this proposed annual audit report and management's letter of representation, the 2024/25 accounts can be approved.

AUDITED ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2024/25

A report was submitted by Julie Slavin, Chief Financial Officer providing an update on completion of the audit of the Annual Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The Committee agreed:-

- (1) the audited Annual Accounts for 2024/25; and
- (2) to remit the audited Annual Accounts and the associated Annual Audit Report from our external auditor, Forvis Mazars, to the September HSCP Board for approval and signature.

INDICATIVE INTERNAL AUDIT STRATEGY AND PLAN

A report was submitted by Andi Priestman, Chief Internal Auditor, providing the indicative Internal Audit Strategy and Plan for 2025-2026 to the Audit and Performance Committee for approval.

After discussion and having heard the Chief Officer and the Chief Internal Auditor in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed to approve the indicative Internal Audit Plan for 2025-2026.

CLINICAL AND CARE GOVERNANCE REPORT – QUARTER 1

A report was submitted by Val Tierney, Chief Nurse, providing Committee with oversight and assurance about the progress made in strengthening assuring and improving the quality of health and social care.

After discussion and having heard the Chief Nurse, the Chief Financial Officer, the Head of Strategy and Transformation, the Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy Manager and the Head of Mental Health, Addictions and Learning Disabilities in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the content of the report and the extent to which it provides assurance to Board members on care quality;
- (2) to note the activities related to oversight, assurance of care quality, and related improvement efforts; and
- (3) to note the risks escalated to the NHSGGC Primary Care Clinical Governance Forum for their information and assessment of potential additional risk mitigation strategies.

QUARTER 1 PERFORMANCE REPORT

A report was submitted by Margaret-Jane Cardno, Head of Strategy and Transformation, providing information to ensure effective monitoring and reporting on the delivery of services and on the programme of work as set out in the new West Dunbartonshire HSCP Strategic Plan 2023-2026: Improving Lives Together.

After discussion and having heard the Chief Officer, the Head of Strategy and Transformation, the Chief Financial Officer, the Head of Mental Health, Addictions and Learning Disabilities and the Head of Community Care in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the content of the HSCP Quarterly Performance Report 2025/26 Quarter One and performance against the Strategic Plan 2023 - 2026 by exception; and
- (2) to note that due to timing issues this report presents partial Quarter One data.

QUARTER 1 REGULATED SERVICES REPORT

A report was submitted by Margaret-Jane Cardno, Head of Strategy and Transformation, providing an update on Care Inspectorate inspection reports for externally commissioned registered services, located within West Dunbartonshire and internally provided services by West Dunbartonshire Council whose service delivery is carried out by the HSCP.

After discussion and having heard the Head of Community Care, the Chief Nurse, the Head of Mental Health, Addictions and Learning Disabilities and the Contracts, Commissioning and Quality Manager in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the content of this report and its appendices; and
- (2) to note the format of this report to ensure it provides sufficient clarity and transparency of information relating to regulated services externally commissioned by the HSCP and regulated services provided by the HSCP on behalf of the Council.

HEALTH CARE STAFFING ACT ASSURANCE REPORT

A report was submitted by Val Tierney, Chief Nurse, reporting on the legal responsibilities conferred on integration authorities and health boards and provides assurance regarding West Dunbartonshire HSCPs level of compliance with the duties and guiding principles within the Health Care Staffing Act.

After discussion and having heard the Chief Nurse in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note that the Act affects Health and Care services differently, with separate reporting requirements and timescales;
- (2) to note health services delegated to West Dunbartonshire HSCP report to NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde (NHSGGC) via Quarterly Internal Assurance Reports which inform NHSGGC's Annual Report to Scottish Government;
- (3) to note the overall level of compliance for delegated health services in West Dunbartonshire HSCP Quarter 1 (2025) Internal Assurance Report is assessed as reasonable (Appendix 1 of the report);
- (4) to note that Integration Authorities have a duty to publish and report annually to Scottish Government for all care services registered with The Care Inspectorate, in the financial year they are first planned or secured by the Integration Authority, on the steps taken by the organisation to comply or mitigate risks regards Section 3(2) of the Act;
- (5) to note the reasonable level of assurance provided by West Dunbartonshire HSCP in their annual report submitted to Scottish Government 30th June 2025 (Appendix 2 of the report); and
- (6) to publish the annual report submitted to Scottish Government by West Dunbartonshire HSCP on 30th June 2025 (Appendix 2 of the report).

The meeting closed at 3.52 p.m.