

INVERCLYDE INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD – 29 NOVEMBER 2021

Inverclyde Integration Joint Board
Monday 29 November 2021 at 2pm

PRESENT:**Voting Members:**

Alan Cowan (Chair)	Greater Glasgow and Clyde NHS Board
Councillor Jim Clocherty (Vice Chair)	Inverclyde Council
Councillor Lynne Quinn	Inverclyde Council
Councillor Luciano Rebecchi	Inverclyde Council
Councillor Elizabeth Robertson	Inverclyde Council
Simon Carr	Greater Glasgow and Clyde NHS Board
Paula Speirs	Greater Glasgow and Clyde NHS Board

Non-Voting Professional Advisory Members:

Allen Stevenson	Interim Corporate Director (Chief Officer) Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership
Anne Glendinning	On behalf of Sharon McAlees, Chief Social Worker
Craig Given	Chief Finance Officer, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership
Laura Moore	Chief Nurse, NHS GG&C

Non-Voting Stakeholder Representative Members:

Diana McCrone	Staff Representative, NHS Board
Christina Boyd	Carer's Representative

Also present:

David Jamieson	Audit Scotland
Grace Symes	Audit Scotland
Vicky Pollock	Legal Services Manager, Inverclyde Council
Alan Best	Interim Head of Health & Community Care, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership
Anne Malarkey	Interim Head of Homelessness, Mental Health & Drug & Alcohol Recovery Services, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership
Diane Sweeney	Senior Committee Officer, Inverclyde Council
Colin MacDonald	Senior Committee Officer, Inverclyde Council
Karen Haldane	Executive Officer, Your Voice Inverclyde Community Care Forum

Chair: Alan Cowan presided

The meeting took place via video-conference.

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87 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest**87**

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of:

Sharon McAlees	Chief Social Worker, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership (with Anne Glendinning substituting)
Charlene Elliot	Third Sector Representative, CVS Inverclyde
Hamish MacLeod	Service User Representative, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership Advisory Group

No declarations of interest were intimated.

Prior to discussion on the following item the Chair thanked Mr Given and his finance team, Andi Priestman, Inverclyde Council's Chief Internal Auditor, the IJJB Audit Committee and Audit Scotland for their contributions and efforts to finalise the Annual Report and Accounts in what was a difficult year.

88 Annual Report to the IJJB and the Controller of Audit for the Financial Year Ended 31 March 2021**88**

There was submitted a report by the Interim Corporate Director (Chief Officer) Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership appending the Annual Report and Auditor's Letter to the Board for the financial year ended 31 March 2021 which had been prepared by the IJJB's external auditors, Audit Scotland.

The Chair invited Mr Jamieson to present the Audit Scotland Report, which had the following findings:

- (1) the audit opinions on the annual accounts of the IJJB are unmodified;
- (2) the Covid-19 pandemic had an impact on the timing of assurances provided by partner bodies;
- (3) an error in the Set Aside amount of £4 million has been corrected in the audited accounts. There is no net effect on the outturn as this is fully funded by NHS GG&C;
- (4) the IJJB budget is generally delayed by NHS GG&C though indicative budgets are agreed;
- (5) additional funding and an underspend on core activities resulted in a surplus of £6.5 million in 2020/21, with the majority of savings delivered;
- (6) a £0.5 million overspend is currently forecast for 202/21 with additional Covid-19 costs fully funded;
- (7) the IJJB has a medium-term financial plan;
- (8) there was a rapid response to the pandemic and Strategic Plan priorities have been revised;
- (9) management changes in the IJJB have been significant;
- (10) review of the integration scheme has been delayed; and
- (11) there were no recommendations made regarding the 2020/21 accounts.

The Chair invited Councillor Robertson, as Chair of the Inverclyde Integration Joint Board Audit Committee, to address the Board.

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Councillor Robertson advised that the Audit Committee had met at 1pm with representatives from Audit Scotland, and having considered and discussed the Annual Report, were content to (a) recommended that the IJJB authorise the Chair, Chief Officer and Chief Financial Officer to accept and sign the final 2020/21 accounts on behalf of the IJJB, and (b) recommend that the Letter of Representation be signed by the Chief Financial Officer, subject to two requested changes in the narrative of the Audit Scotland Annual Audit Report (the Report) as follows:

(i) the Key Message at page 9 and heading at page 11 of the Report (pages 13 and 15 of the agenda) referencing 'set aside'...'not working' – be changed to reflect the Audit Committee's opinion that the policy had not been implemented; and

(ii) that the identified problems with Unscheduled Care referred to at paragraphs 35 to 37 of the Report (page 15 of the agenda) are appropriately contextualised as being national in scale and are not specific to Inverclyde.

Councillor Robertson commented favourably on the report and noted that the Audit Committee had earlier expressed thanks to all involved in the process.

The Chair sought reassurance that the narrative changes indicated above would not prevent the IJJB agreeing to authorise the signing of the accounts and Letter of Representation as recommended, and Mr Jamieson provided assurance that the narrative changes requested by the Audit Committee did not impact on the annual report being signed.

The Board requested further information on the Set Aside budget error referred to in the Report and Mr Given provided an overview as to how the error had occurred, noting that incorrect information had been provided by NHS GG&C, and assured that the matter had now been resolved.

The Board sought reassurance that the cost of supplying medicines was not impacted by the pandemic, and Mr Stevenson and Mr Best assured that contracts for medicines were heavily regulated as part of a national procurement service with robust control mechanisms. The Board questioned how the supply of medicines was monitored in order to prevent short supply, and Mr Best provided an overview of the HSCP processes to ensure continued supply of medicines, and noted that he was not aware of any particular short supply at present.

The Board commented on the Integration Scheme Review, detailed at the 'Follow-up of prior year recommendations' at page 18 (Appendix 1) of the Report (page 22 of the agenda), and observed that the 31 March 2022 deadline was ambitious and asked if there was flexibility in this. Mr Stevenson provided assurances that all HSCPs in NHS GG&C were experiencing the same issues and were working collegiately to resolve them, that it was anticipated the deadline would move to summer 2022 and that a report would be submitted to the IJJB once timescales were confirmed and discussions concluded with the Scottish Government.

In closing the Chair noted the underspend in the accounts, which he commented could be spent on services, the reserve balance, and reminded the Board that they faced challenges in maintaining services within the resource envelope.

Decided:

- (1) that the contents of the Annual Report to the IJJB and Controller of Audit for the financial year to 31 March 2021 be endorsed;
- (2) that the Chair, HSCP Chief Officer and Chief Financial Officer be authorised to accept and sign the final 2020/21 Accounts on behalf of the IJJB; and
- (3) that the Letter of Representation, as detailed at appendix 2 of the report, be endorsed and that approval be given to the signing of this by the Chief Financial Officer.