

NHS Ayrshire & Arran



Meeting:	Ayrshire and Arran NHS Board
Meeting date:	Monday 4 December 2023
Title:	Audit and Risk Committee meeting on 16 November 2023 Chair's report to NHS Board
Responsible Director:	Derek Lindsay – Director of Finance
Report Author:	Jean Ford, Non-Executive Director, Committee Chair

1. Purpose

This is presented to the Board for: Discussion.

This paper relates to: Local policy to ensure good governance practice in reporting from board committees

This aligns to the NHS Scotland quality ambitions of Safe, Effective and Person Centred. Good governance practice supports the effective delivery of services across the organisation.

2. Report summary

2.1 Situation

This report provides information to Board Members on key items discussed within the Governance Committee's remit, in order to provide assurance to the Board that those matters have been identified and are being addressed, where required.

2.2 Background

The Board Model Standing Orders advises that Board meeting papers will include the minutes of committee meetings which the relevant committee has approved. To ensure that there is no delay in reporting from committees this paper provides a timely update on key items from committees.

2.3 Assessment

Key items agreed by Committee are noted below.

- The committee received the completed Internal Audit report on Infection Prevention and Control rated Significant Improvement Required (Amber). Actions are underway to address the findings which largely relate to follow through and monitoring as opposed to core process. Discussion took place on the deadline provided for completion of recommendations which will be reviewed

to ensure they are fully realistic. Following this the report will be forwarded to the Healthcare Governance Committee for monitoring of actions.

- Audit Actions progress report was discussed in detail with specific action requested relative to a number of red/ incomplete actions for which updates were not available. General concern was expressed over the volume of overdue/ partially completed actions. Activity continues via Chief Executive and Governance Committees to improve the position.
- Chief Auditors from each of the IJBs were in attendance to provide their annual update on the internal audit reports for 2022/23 and audit plans for 2023/24. Each report concluded that an opinion of reasonable assurance can be placed on the control environment of the IJB.
- Updates were provided on the Counter Fraud Standard Self-Assessment and Action Plan and the National Fraud Initiative.
- The Strategic Risk Register was presented to members. A comprehensive review was undertaken by RARSAG and seven strategic risks have been moved to operational in July 2023. All risks are reported to the relevant governance committee for monitoring. It was noted that one risk has been terminated due to being no longer relevant. Progress continues to deepen governance through Committees and enhance assurance provided within content of reports.

2.4 Recommendation

The Board is asked to be aware of and discuss the key items highlighted and receive assurance that issues are being addressed, where required.