

Meeting of South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership	Performance and Audit Committee	
Held on	12 November 2021	
Agenda Item:	11	
Title:	South Ayrshire Council Best Value Audit	
Summary:		
The purpose of this report is to bring to the attention of the Performance and Audit Committee the recently published Best Value Audit of South Ayrshire Council.		
Author:	John Wood, Senior Manager Planning and Performance	
It is recommended that the Performance and Audit Committee:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Notes the content of the Best Value Audit of South Ayrshire Council (Appendix 1); and ii. Notes that actions in response to the report will be developed in conjunction with the council and brought to a future meeting. 		
Route to meeting:		
The Best Value Audit report has now been published and will be formally noted by the Council in December.		
Directions:		Implications:
1. No Directions Required <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Financial <input type="checkbox"/>
2. Directions to NHS Ayrshire & Arran <input type="checkbox"/>		HR <input type="checkbox"/>
3. Directions to South Ayrshire Council <input type="checkbox"/>		Legal <input type="checkbox"/>
4. Directions to both SAC & NHS <input type="checkbox"/>		Equalities <input type="checkbox"/>
		Sustainability <input type="checkbox"/>
		Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		ICT <input type="checkbox"/>

HSCP STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to bring to the attention of the Performance and Audit Committee the recently published Best Value Audit of South Ayrshire Council.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that the Performance and Audit Committee:

- i. **Notes the content of the Best Value Audit of South Ayrshire Council (Appendix 1); and**
- ii. **Notes that actions in response to the report will be developed in conjunction with the council and brought to a future meeting.**

3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 Audit Scotland carried out a remote Best Value Audit of South Ayrshire Council between January and June 2021. As part of the audit process, the Controller of Audit presented the Best Value Assurance Report on South Ayrshire Council to the Accounts Commission, for their consideration, on 7th October 2021.

3.2 The council has welcomed the Controller of Audit's recognition of the council's quick response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the role council employees played in providing support, in conjunction with partners, to vulnerable individuals and communities, while continuing to deliver vital services.

4. REPORT

4.1 The report finds that the Integration Joint Board's governance arrangements have improved over the last year, stating that the investment in the leadership team of the Health and Social Care Partnership has contributed to this improvement. It also finds that the IJB has made **improvements in children's services**, however, it has made slow progress in addressing other performance issues (e.g. in delayed transfers of care). It has recently set out plans for transformational change and there is evidence of recent improvement in delayed discharges.

4.2 There are three specific findings relating to the IJB as well as positive reference to children's services:

- **“The governance arrangements between the IJB, council and NHS have been strengthened to provide clearer strategic direction.”** This refers to improvements in financial management and improved understanding between the IJB, NHS and SAC around governance.

- **“The IJB has made slow progress in addressing specific performance issues since its establishment and has only recently begun investing in transformation.”** The slow progress refers specifically to delayed discharges but does recognise improvements during the audit period (e.g. in bed days lost). Improvements are noted in children’s services, with a significant reduction in “Out With Authority” placements which also resulted in savings of £2.7 million being achieved.
- **“The council and the HSCP work well with local communities, and locality plans have helped drive forward community-led initiatives.”** This section praises the HSCP and Council’s collective approach to the Locality Planning Groups, the Champions Board and participatory budgeting.

4.3 In addition to this, there are generic comments within the report around service planning and community planning which need to be considered in detail by the HSCP at a ‘corporate’ and service level.

4.4 The report is available on the Accounts Commission [website](#) and is attached at **Appendix 1**.

5. STRATEGIC CONTEXT

5.1 The Best Value Audit has significant strategic implications for both the Council and HSCP to respond to. Our IJB Strategic Plan outlines a programme of continuous improvement which will incorporate comments from the BVA. In particular, our response will be informed by the following strategic objective:

- *We are an ambitious and effective partnership*

6. IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Financial Implications

6.1.1 There are no direct financial implications of agreeing this report.

6.2 Human Resource Implications

6.2.1 There are no HR implications to agreeing this report.

6.3 Legal Implications

6.3.1 There are no legal implications to agreeing this report.

6.4 Equalities implications

6.4.1 A full equality impact assessment will be undertaken on the strategy.

6.5 Sustainability implications

6.5.1 There are no sustainability implications to agreeing this report.

6.6 Clinical/professional assessment

6.6.1 This report does not require clinical or professional considerations to be reflected to the IJB

7. **CONSULTATION AND PARTNERSHIP WORKING**

7.1 The response to the Best Value Audit will be developed in collaboration with the council and other relevant partners.

8. **RISK ASSESSMENT**

8.1 Not applicable.

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