

Audit Committee Update – Swansea Bay University Health Board

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Audit Committee Update

About this document

- 1 This document provides the Audit Committee with an update on current and planned Audit Wales work. Accounts and performance audit work are considered, and information is also provided on the Auditor General's wider programme of national value-for-money examinations and the work of our Good Practice Exchange (GPX).

Accounts audit update

- 2 **Exhibit 1** summarises the status of our key accounts audit work to be reported during 2021-22.

Exhibit 1 – Accounts audit work

Area of work	Current status
Audit of the 2020-21 Accountability Report and Financial Statements	The Audit Committee and Board considered our audit report on 7 June. The accounts were submitted to Welsh Government in line with the submission deadline of 11 June. The Auditor General for Wales placed an unqualified audit opinion on the accounts on 15 June and laid them before the Senedd on the 16 June.
Audit of the 2020-21 Charitable Funds Accounts	Planned for October 2021

Performance audit update

- 3 The following tables set out the performance audit work included in our current and previous Audit Plans, summarising:
 - completed work since the last Audit Committee update (**Exhibit 2**);
 - work that is currently underway (**Exhibit 3**); and
 - planned work not yet started or revised (**Exhibit 4**).

Exhibit 2 – Work completed

Area of work	Considered by Audit Committee
Structured Assessment 2021 (Phase 1) – Operational Planning Arrangements	September 2021
<u>Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee Governance Arrangements</u>	September 2021 (to allow consideration of the report by the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Hosted Bodies Audit Committee in August)

Exhibit 3 – Work currently underway

Topic and relevant Executive Lead	Focus of the work	Current status and Audit Committee consideration
Orthopaedic services – follow up Executive Lead – Chief Operating Officer	This review will examine the progress made in response to our 2015 recommendations. The findings from this work will inform the recovery planning discussions that are starting to take place locally and help identify where there are opportunities to do things differently as the service looks to tackle the significant elective backlog challenges. Our findings will be summarised into a single national report with supplementary outputs setting out the local position for each health board.	Report being drafted November 2021
Review of the commissioning and contracting arrangements	This work will examine the robustness of the arrangements for overseeing and managing the contractual agreements established following the Bridgend service	Report due to go out for clearance

Topic and relevant Executive Lead	Focus of the work	Current status and Audit Committee consideration
<p>post Bridgend boundary change</p> <p>Executive Lead – Director of Strategy/Director of Finance</p>	<p>transition in 2019. The work will also consider the programme for service disaggregation (for relevant services), and whether the arrangements support future regional service models currently being explored by the organisations.</p>	<p>November 2021</p>
<p>Quality Governance</p> <p>Executive Lead – Director of Nursing and Patient Experience</p>	<p>This work will allow us to undertake a more detailed examination of factors underpinning quality governance such as strategy, structures and processes, information flows, and reporting. This work follows our joint review of Cwm Taf Morgannwg UHB and as a result of findings of previous structured assessment work across Wales which has pointed to various challenges with quality governance arrangements. The work will include an assessment of the arrangements for monitoring the impact of the various harms associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>	<p>Report being drafted</p> <p>November 2021</p>
<p>Follow up review of radiology services</p> <p>Executive Lead – Chief Operating Officer</p>	<p>This work will focus on following up progress made by the Health Board against our previous recommendations relating to radiology services. Progress with this work had been paused briefly to allow the service respond to the pandemic.</p>	<p>Report being drafted</p> <p>November 2021</p>
<p>Structured Assessment</p>	<p>This work will continue to reflect the ongoing arrangements of NHS bodies in response to the COVID-</p>	<p>Phase 1 report finalised and presented to</p>

Topic and relevant Executive Lead	Focus of the work	Current status and Audit Committee consideration
Executive Lead – Board Secretary / Director of Finance	19 emergency. The work will be undertaken in two phases. Phase 1 will review the effectiveness of operational planning arrangements to help NHS bodies continue to respond to the challenges of the pandemic and to recover and restart services. Phase 2 will examine how well NHS bodies are embedding sound arrangements for corporate governance and financial management, drawing on lessons learnt from the initial response to the pandemic.	September Audit Committee Phase 2 underway

Exhibit 4 – Planned work not yet started or revised

Topic and relevant Executive Lead	Focus of the work	Current status and Audit Committee consideration
Review of Unscheduled Care Executive Lead – Chief Operating Officer	This work has been carried forward from the 2020 audit plan and will initially look to provide a high-level whole system overview of the unscheduled care. The overview will be informed by the development of an interactive database covering all aspects of the unscheduled care pathway. Further work will then be undertaken on specific elements of unscheduled care pathway, with a likely focus on activities to signpost patients to the most appropriate care setting, and to manage patient flow through the system.	Whole system commentary and data analysis currently being completed Further work not yet started TBC

Topic and relevant Executive Lead	Focus of the work	Current status and Audit Committee consideration
<p>Review of Service Group Governance Arrangements</p> <p>Executive Lead – Board Secretary</p>	<p>The precise focus of this work is still to be determined but will look to review the effectiveness of the arrangements for governance at a service group level. This work will follow on from internal work currently being undertaken by the Health Board to strengthen governance arrangements with service groups.</p>	TBC

Good Practice events and products

- 4 In addition to the audit work set out above, we continue to seek opportunities for finding and sharing good practice from all-Wales audit work through our forward planning, programme design and good practice research.
- 5 In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have established a **COVID-19 Learning Project** to support public sector efforts by sharing learning through the pandemic. This is not an audit project; it is intended to help prompt some thinking, and hopefully support the exchange of practice. We have produced a number of outputs as part of the project which are relevant to the NHS, the details of which are available [here](#). This includes the material from our COVID-19 Learning Week held in March 2021.
- 6 Details of future events are available on the [GPX website](#).

NHS-related national studies and related products

- 7 The Audit Committee may also be interested in the Auditor General's wider programme of national value for money studies, some of which focus on the NHS and pan-public-sector topics. These studies are typically funded through the Welsh Consolidated Fund and are presented to the Public Accounts Committee to support its scrutiny of public expenditure.
- 8 Since the last Audit Committee meeting, there have been no NHS-related or relevant national studies published.



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