

Audit Committee Update – Swansea Bay University Health Board

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About this document

- 1 This document provides the Audit Committee with an update on our current and planned accounts and performance audit work at Swansea Bay University Health Board.
- 2 We also provide additional information on:
 - Other relevant examinations and studies published by the Audit General.
 - Relevant corporate documents published by Audit Wales (e.g. fee schemes, annual plans, annual reports), as well as details of any consultations underway.
- 3 Details of future and past Good Practice Exchange (GPX) events are available on our [website](#).

Accounts audit update

4 **Exhibit 1** summarises the status of our current and planned accounts audit work.

Exhibit 1 – Accounts audit work

Area of work and	Executive Lead	Focus of the work	Current status	Planned date for consideration
Audit of the 2023-24 Accountability Report and Financial Statements	Director of Finance	To provide an audit opinion on the Health Board's Accountability Report and Financial Statements.	Audit work ongoing.	Audit Opinion 15 July 2024
Audit of the 2023-24 Charitable Funds Accounts	Director of Finance	To provide an audit opinion on the Health Board's Charitable Funds Accounts.	Audit not yet started.	Audit Opinion by 31 January 2025

Performance audit update

5 **Exhibit 2** summarises the status of our current and planned performance audit work.

Exhibit 2 – Performance audit work

Area of work	Executive Lead	Focus of the Work	Current Status	Planned Date for consideration
Review of Unscheduled Care	Chief Operating Officer	<p>This work will examine different aspects of the unscheduled care system and will include analysis of national data sets to present a high-level picture of how the unscheduled care system is currently working.</p> <p>The work will include an examination of the actions being taken by NHS bodies, local government, and Regional Partnership Boards to secure timely and safe discharge of patients from hospital to help improve patient flow (Part 1).</p> <p>We also plan to review progress being made in managing unscheduled care demand by helping patients access services which are most appropriate for their unscheduled care needs (Part 2).</p>	<p>Part 1 – Regional report in internal clearance</p> <p>Part 2 – Fieldwork</p>	<p>September 2024</p> <p>November 2024</p>

Area of work	Executive Lead	Focus of the Work	Current Status	Planned Date for consideration
Review of Service Group Governance Arrangements (Local Work)	Director of Corporate Governance	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 within service groups.	Report issued for clearance in June Awaiting Health Board response	September 2024
Follow-up of Outpatients follow up (Local Work)	Chief Operating Officer	In 2015, we conducted a review of follow up outpatient appointments, specifically considering whether the Health Board was managing follow-up outpatient appointments effectively. We made several recommendations to the Health Board. In 2018 we undertook a review of the progress of implementing these recommendations. We found that some progress had been made but more work needed. This work will follow-up progress against these recommendations	Report Finalised in April Awaiting Management Response	This committee
Structured Assessment 2023 – Deep Dive	Director of Finance	We had previously indicated an intention to undertake deeper dive work to examine digital arrangements. However, given the significantly challenging financial position across NHS Wales, we are now looking at replacing the work on digital with focused work examining the approaches NHS bodies are taking in respect of achieving cost improvements, efficiencies, and financial sustainability.	Report being drafted by Audit Wales. Verbal feedback was provided April 2024	September 2024

Area of work	Executive Lead	Focus of the Work	Current Status	Planned Date for consideration
All-Wales thematic review of planned care	Chief Operating Officer	<p>This work will follow on from the national report on <u>tackling the planned care backlog</u>. Whilst the exact focus of this work is still to be determined, it is likely to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent that health boards have achieved Welsh Government targets for recovering planned care services; • The efficacy of local plans and activity to recover waiting lists; and • Use of the additional Welsh Government financial allocations to improve waiting lists. 	Fieldwork	To be confirmed
Structured Assessment 2024 - Core	Chief Executive Officer	<p>Our structured assessment work is designed to examine the existence of proper arrangements for the efficient, effective, and economical use of resources. Our 2024 Structured Assessment will review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board and committee cohesion and effectiveness; • Corporate systems of assurance; • Corporate planning arrangements; and • Corporate financial planning and management arrangements. 	Fieldwork	November 2024
Structured Assessment 2024 Deep Dive - Review of investment	Chief Executive Officer	<p>This review will examine digital arrangements, with a particular focus on how NHS bodies are investing in digital technologies, solutions, and capabilities to support the workforce, transform patient care, meet demand, and improve productivity and efficiency.</p>	Planning	To be confirmed

Area of work	Executive Lead	Focus of the Work	Current Status	Planned Date for consideration
in digital systems				
Quality Governance Review Follow up (Local Work)	Executive Director of Nursing Medical Director Executive Director of Therapies and Health Sciences	The work will assess the extent to which previous audit recommendations arising from our thematic review of Quality Governance arrangements have been implemented and are delivering the intended outcomes / benefits.	Planning	March 2025

Other relevant publications

- 6 **Exhibit 3** provides information on other relevant examinations and studies published by the Auditor General in the last six months. The links to the reports on our website are provided. The reports highlighted in **bold** have been published since the last committee update.

Exhibit 3 – Relevant examinations and studies published by the Auditor General

Title	Publication Date
<u>Community Pharmacy Data Matching Pilot</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Article related to this report</u>• <u>Blog related to this report</u>	May 2024
<u>Governance of National Park Authorities</u>	April 2024
<u>Supporting Ukrainians in Wales</u>	March 2024
<u>From firefighting to future-proofing – the challenge for Welsh public services</u>	February 2024

Additional information

- 7 There have been no corporate documents published by Audit Wales since the last committee update.
- 8 There are no relevant Audit Wales consultations currently underway.



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