

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 2022-23 Charitable Funds Accounts	Director of Finance	To provide an audit opinion on the Health Board's Charitable Funds Accounts.	Audit work is complete. The Audit Opinion has been delayed pending receipt of the controls assurance report from the Fund Manager. This is due to be received by the end of March 2024. This position is in common with a number of other NHS charitable funds across Wales.	Audit Opinion by 30 April 2024
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.	Planning to commence in March 2024	Audit Opinion by 15 July 2024

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 – Project brief issued</p>	<p>May 2024</p> <p>September 2024</p>

Area of work	Executive Lead	Focus of the Work	Current Status	Planned Date for consideration
All-Wales thematic on workforce planning arrangements	Director of Workforce and OD	This review will assess the workforce risks that NHS bodies are experiencing currently and are likely to experience in the future. It will examine how local and national workforce planning activities are being taken forward to manage those risks and address short-, medium- and longer-term workforce needs.	Report in internal clearance	May 2024
Primary Care Services - Follow-up Review	Chief Operating Officer	In 2018, we conducted a review of primary care services, specifically considering whether the Health Board was well placed to deliver the national vision for primary care as set out in the national plan. We made several recommendations to the Health Board. This work will follow-up progress against these recommendations.	Report in internal clearance	March 2024
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 being drafted	May 2024
Follow up of Outpatients follow up (Local Work 2023)	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	Report being drafted	May 2024

Area of work	Executive Lead	Focus of the Work	Current Status	Planned Date for consideration
		<p>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</p>		
Structured Assessment 2023 – Deep Dive	Director of Finance	<p>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.</p>	Fieldwork underway	May 2024
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. 	<p>Scoping.</p> <p>Project brief to be issued in May 2024</p>	To be confirmed

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>From firefighting to future-proofing – the challenge for Welsh public services</u>	February 2024
<u>Board effectiveness follow-up – Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board</u>	February 2024

Additional information

- 7 **Exhibit 4** provides information on corporate documents published by Audit Wales since the last committee update. Links to the documents on our website are provided. There are no relevant Audit Wales consultations currently underway.

Exhibit 4 – Audit Wales corporate documents

Title	Publication Date
<u>Fee Scheme 2024-25</u>	January 2024



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