

ALL WALES AUDIT COMMITTEE CHAIRS (AWACC) MEETING HIGHLIGHT REPORT

Date of Meeting	13 October 2022, 09:30
Chair Name <i>Chair Organisation</i>	Martin Turner Audit Committee Chair Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust
Secretariat <i>Secretariat Organisation</i>	Trish Mills, Board Secretary Alex Payne, Corporate Governance Manager Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust

Members Present:	
Martin Turner	Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust [Chair]
Dyfed Edwards	Public Health Wales
Iwan Jones	Aneurin Bevan University Health Board
Marian Jones	Digital Health and Care Wales
Gill Lewis	Health Education and Improvement Wales
Paul Newman	Hywel Dda University Health Board
Patsy Roseblade	Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board
John Union	Cardiff and Vale University Health Board
Martin Veale	Velindre University NHS Trust
Nuria Zolle	Swansea Bay University Health Board
In Attendance:	
Trish Mills	Board Secretary, Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust
Simon Cookson	Internal Auditor, NWSSP [Item 1-2]
Richard Harris	Audit Wales [Item 3]
Dave Thomas	Audit Wales [Item 3-4]
Jonathan Morgan	Observer - Health Education and Improvement Wales
Apologies:	
Medwyn Hughes	Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board
Alison Lewis	Health Education & Improvement Wales
Stella Parry	Powys Teaching Health Board
Mark Taylor	Powys Teaching Health Board

The following is a summary of the main issues discussed at the meeting

1. Minutes from the 19/05/22 & Outstanding Actions

- 1.1. The minutes from the meeting held on the 19 May 2022 were agreed as an accurate record. There were no requests for amendments or comments and accepted.
- 1.2. The actions were reviewed. Action 'AWACC (22) 15' was closed; action 'AWACC (22) 17' will be discussed under work programme arrangements; all other actions were complete.

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2. Internal Audit Update [Business Development & Analysis Update]

2.1. Simon Cookson delivered a presentation to the group on the audit activity via the new dashboard. The number of reviews and trends across categories and financial years could be observed, in addition to comparison by organisation.

2.2. The following was noted:

- That similar individual organisational presentations will be delivered;
- That is necessary to consider how to use and share the database;
- That user access to the database must be considered;
- The intention is for this information to be used in the 'background';
- That benchmarking the data outside of Wales could be helpful;
- Internal Audit (IA) have approached other IA colleagues to seek such data;
- IA will share the database with Audit Committees, as requested;
- The primary audience is the AWACC and the Board Secretaries Network;
- That it would be helpful for the database to include emergent themes;
- That this database could potentially be subject to misuse.

2.3. IA are content to develop and share the database in whichever way is considered preferable and will take advice from the AWACC. The database is to enable learning; however, it does enable organisational comparison.

2.4. The future approach to IA planning was considered; Simon Cookson stated that this database could be used to inform the future approach in regard to identifying themes which require attention.

2.5. Simon Cookson will socialise the database with other stakeholders, after which the AWACC will decide how to take it forward. Simon will return to the AWACC at its next meeting to follow up this work **[Action]**.

3. Audit Wales – External Audit Update

3.1. Dave Thomas and Richard Harris spoke to the group in regard to two matters – the Fee Scheme Consultation and the Work Programme. In regard to the *Fee Scheme Consultation* the following was noted: -

- The Consultation included info regarding the change to audit approach;
- The fee increase is not yet known;
- Plans will be issued in early 2023 which will set out the detail.

3.2. The group discussed resource / workforce challenges within Audit Wales, and the risks that this poses for service delivery. Audit Wales continue to work closely with local finance teams / organisations on this matter;

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3.3. In regard to the *Work Programme* the following was noted: -

- The wider VfM work programme across all sectors has been shared;
- The structured assessments have been progressed;
- Follow-up to the planned care for orthopaedic services will soon be published;
- Summary of quality governance findings will soon be published;
- There is work on unscheduled care, including review of discharge planning;
- There will be a thematic review of workforce planning.

3.4. Audit Wales would expect to be involved in giving evidence to the Pandemic Inquiry, however they are yet to be invited to do so. There is output from the Test, Trace and Protect report which could be helpful, for example.

4. Work Programme and Operating Arrangements

4.1. The group considered its operation and the business it should receive going forward. The suggestions received for how the group should operate, and the business to receive included: -

- Focus on all-Wales audit activities that affect all bodies, e.g., decarbonisation;
- Focus on all-Wales areas of high-risk activity, e.g., cyber-security;
- Approach to counter-fraud and associated resources to support;
- The socialisation and use of the Internal Audit analysis dashboard;
- Welsh Language Standards compliance – involve the Commissioner;
- The Internal Audit approach / best practice regarding capital projects;
- Related lessons learned from capital projects/programme activity;
- The Gateway review process / compliance;
- All-Wales high-risk compliance requirements, inc. Welsh Language;
- Understanding of the macro-economic environment, in context;
- Partnership working and associated audit management.

4.2. The group agreed to focus on two or three areas at its next meeting, supported by Trish Mills. The preference for its next meeting was for the group to consider counter-fraud and de-carbonisation;

4.3. Additionally, the group will receive business in relation to the Welsh Language Standards at its next meeting. If this is not practical it will be received at the subsequent meeting;

4.4. Dave Thomas will support the discussion regarding management of capital projects from an individual organisational point of view, as opposed to inclusion for discussion at AWACC;

4.5. Dave Thomas will consider this matter and feedback any useful questions to support Independent Board Members' in governing the management of capital projects to the Chair and Trish Mills **[Action]**;

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4.6. In regard to the macro-economic environment topic, it may be possible for the members to attend meetings of the respective Finance Directors – to better understand the position **[Action]**;

4.7. The group agreed the importance of returning to cyber-security as an ongoing audit issue. Trish Mills will support the arrangements for the next meeting and prepare the agenda as discussed.

5. Update from All Wales Board Secretaries Network and Audit Working Group

5.1. Updates from External Audit and Internal Audit: -

- External audit: update on national reviews (climate change; wellbeing audit; unscheduled care work, national quality governance etc);
- Internal audit: Delivered a demonstration of the internal audit analysis tool (discussed by the group earlier).

5.2. Demonstration from the Finance Academy on an interactive awareness tool for the Standing Financial Instructions which has been developed. This tool is very useful for Board Member inductions.

5.3. NHS Executive Governance: -

- The Board Secretaries Network has representation on the Governance and Finance workstream for the development of the NHS Executive;
- The timescales to establish the Executive are very challenging (by the 1 January 2023);
- A PID to consider the complex issues is in development, and the Governance and Finance workstream is working through it;
- Given the interdependencies with the mandate development and functions development workstream, it's too early to provide a substantive update.

5.4. 111 Governance: -

- Received a presentation from Richard Bowan and Nicola Bowen from the 111 Programme Team in light of the proposed transition of the 111 Programme Board to Goal 2 delivery group;
- The Board Secretaries Network have raised various agreements that require updating with Richard Bowan, and in particular Rani Malleson from Aneurin Bevan as host, is leading this work.

5.5. Conflicts of Interest: -

- Cardiff and Vale are piloting to target doctors' declarations;
- Reviewing ESR functionality and ability to generate Power BI dashboards;
- Considering Civica to support managing declarations of interest.

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5.6. Covid-19 Inquiry: -

- Discussions around preparedness for Module three core participant status;
- Core participant applications likely required in a three-week period;
- The Network will discuss further the principle of whether this is done individually or collaboratively;

6. Any Other Business

6.1. At Trish Mills' request, the group considered how best to record and disseminate its discussions. It was asked that Trish investigate whether production of a highlight report rather than minutes is accepted practice, but it was agreed that this would be acceptable for the record of this meeting **[Action]**.

7. Next meeting:

7.1. The date for the next meeting is to be agreed; Trish to consider options **[Action]**.