

# Audit & Risk Assurance Committee Update – Hywel Dda University Health Board

Date issued: August 2022

Document reference: 2069A2020-21

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# Audit & Risk Assurance Committee Update

## About this document

- 1 This document provides the Audit & Risk Assurance Committee (ARAC) 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 currently underway.

### Exhibit 1 – Accounts audit work

| Area of work  | Current status                              |
|---|---|
| Audit of the 2021-22 Charitable Funds Accounts                      | Audit planning due to start autumn of 2022. |
| Audit of the 2022-23 Accountability Report and Financial Statements | Audit planning due to start early 2023.     |

## 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 & Risk Assurance 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 ARAC |
|--|--------------------|
| <u>Structured Assessment 2021 Phase 2 – Corporate Governance and Financial Management Arrangements</u> | February 2022      |

## Exhibit 3 – Work currently underway

| Topic and relevant Executive Lead  | Focus of the work   | Current status and ARAC consideration   |
|--|---|---|
| Orthopaedic services – follow up<br><br>Executive Lead – Director of Operations            | 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. | Date of publication anticipated as October 2022.  |
| Review of the sustainable use of RTT monies<br><br>Executive Lead – Director of Operations | The focus of this work will examine whether the Health Board’s use of RTT funding in 2019-20 resulted in sustainable solutions for reducing waiting times and the extent to which these can be used to aid recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.   | Short output being considered alongside any further national outputs relating to planned care |

| Topic and relevant Executive Lead   | Focus of the work  | Current status and ARAC consideration   |
|---|--|---|
| <p>Review of operational governance arrangements – Mental Health &amp; Learning Disabilities</p> <p>Executive Lead – Director of Operations</p> | <p>This review will follow on from our Quality Governance and Structured Assessment work and examine the effectiveness of the governance arrangements within the Mental Health &amp; Learning Disabilities directorate.</p>  | <p>Fieldwork underway</p> <p>October 2022</p>   |
| <p>Review of Unscheduled Care</p> <p>Executive Lead – Director of Operations</p>  | <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. 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. 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.</p> | <p><a href="#">Blog and data tool</a> published in April 2022</p> <p>Project brief issued. Fieldwork planned to start in September 2022</p> |
| <p>Structured Assessment</p> <p>Executive Lead – Board Secretary</p>  | <p>This work will continue to form the basis of the work we do to examine the existence of proper arrangements for the efficient, effective, and economical use of resources. The 2022 work will review the corporate arrangements in place at the Health Board in relation to:</p>  | <p>Fieldwork underway</p> <p>December 2022</p>  |

| Topic and relevant Executive Lead | Focus of the work   | Current status and ARAC consideration |
|-----------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
|                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Governance and leadership;</li> <li>• Financial management;</li> <li>• Strategic planning; and</li> <li>• Use of resources (such as digital resources, estates, and other physical assets).</li> </ul> |                                       |

**Exhibit 4 – Planned work not yet started or revised**

| Topic and relevant Executive Lead   | Focus of the work  | Current status and ARAC consideration  |
|---|--|--|
| <p>Review of operational governance arrangements across service directorates</p> <p>Executive Lead – Director of Operations</p> | <p>This work will look to review the effectiveness of the arrangements for governance at an operational level across the service directorates. This work will follow on from internal work currently being undertaken by the Health Board to strengthen governance arrangements within the directorates, as well as the local work we will undertake focusing specifically on the Mental Health &amp; Learning Disabilities Directorate.</p> | <p>Date for consideration to be confirmed</p>                                      |
| <p>Workforce planning</p> <p>Executive Lead – Director of Workforce &amp; Organisational Development</p>                        | <p>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.</p>  | <p>Review currently being scoped</p> <p>Date for consideration to be confirmed</p> |

| Topic and relevant Executive Lead | Focus of the work  | Current status and ARAC consideration |
|-----------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| Local work 2022                   | The precise focus of this work is still to be determined | -                                     |

## 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 Details of future events are available on the [GPX website](#). Events include sharing a range of perspectives on the impact the pandemic has had on public services in Wales two years on from the start of the pandemic.

## NHS-related national studies and related products

- 6 The Audit & Risk Assurance 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 & Public Administration Committee to support its scrutiny of public expenditure.
- 7 **Exhibit 5** provides information on the NHS-related or relevant national studies published since our last Committee Update. It also includes all-Wales summaries of work undertaken locally in the NHS.



## Exhibit 5 – NHS-related or relevant studies and all-Wales summary reports

| Title  | Publication Date |
|--|------------------|
| <u>Public Sector Readiness for Net Zero Carbon by 2030</u> | July 2022        |
| <u>Third Sector COVID-19 Response Fund - Memorandum</u>    | July 2022        |
| <u>The Welsh Community Care Information System Update</u>  | July 2022        |

- 8 The Audit & Risk Assurance Committee might also wish to be sighted of the recently published Audit Wales strategy, Assure, Explain, Inspire: Our Strategy 2022-27. This strategy sets out our 5-year vision to drive improvement and support Welsh public Services as they adapt to the challenges and opportunities of a changing world.



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We welcome correspondence and telephone calls in Welsh and English.  
Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth a galwadau ffôn yn Gymraeg a Saesneg.