

NHS Ayrshire & Arran



Meeting:	Ayrshire and Arran NHS Board
Meeting date:	Monday 12 August 2024
Title:	Audit and Risk Committee meeting on 20 June 2024 Chair's report to NHS Board
Responsible Director:	Derek Lindsay – Director of Finance
Report Author:	Jean Ford, Non-Executive Director/Committee Chair

1. Purpose

This is presented to the Board for: Discussion.

This paper relates to: Local policy to ensure good governance practice in reporting from board committees

This aligns to the NHS Scotland quality ambitions of Safe, Effective and Person Centred. Good governance practice supports the effective delivery of services across the organisation.

2. Report summary

2.1 Situation

This report provides information to Board Members on key items discussed within the Governance Committee's remit, in order to provide assurance to the Board that those matters have been identified and are being addressed, where required.

2.2 Background

The Board Model Standing Orders advises that Board meeting papers will include the minutes of committee meetings which the relevant committee has approved. To ensure that there is no delay in reporting from committees this paper provides a timely update on key items from committees.

2.3 Assessment

Key items agreed by Committee are noted below.

- Internal Audit Reports were received for Digital Strategy and Staff Rostering with ratings of Minor Improvement Required and Substantial Improvement required respectively. Both reports will be sent on to their nominated Governance Committee for monitoring of Actions. The Internal Audit Progress report was received and the Internal Audit Programme for 2023/24 has been concluded.

- The Internal Audit Annual Report and Opinion for 2023/24 was received and reasonable assurance regarding the effective and efficient achievement of objectives was given from the work carried out within 2023/24.
- Service Audit reports were received for National IT services and NSS Practitioner and Counter Fraud services. Whilst there were qualifications in these reports assurance has been received from the 3rd parties that actions are being taken to address issues and our External Auditors have confirmed they are comfortable with the position.
- The committee were presented with the Chief Executive's governance statement and supporting letters to provide assurance that the control environment and systems of internal control were considered adequate in respect of the financial year 2023/24.
- The committee received the annual accounts for 2023/24.
- The 2023/24 Annual Audit Report was received and discussed. A clean, unmodified audit opinion was received in respect of the accounts.
- The Audit and Risk Committee approved submission of the annual audit assurance statement to the NHS Board confirming that the work of the committee has evidenced effective systems of internal control are in place and that it is appropriate to approve the Statutory Annual Report and Accounts.

2.4 Recommendation

The Board is asked to be aware of and discuss the key items highlighted and receive assurance that issues are being addressed, where required.