



REPORT TO: MORAY INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD AUDIT, PERFORMANCE AND RISK COMMITTEE ON 6 DECEMBER 2021

SUBJECT: INTERNAL AUDIT UPDATE

BY: CHIEF INTERNAL AUDITOR

1. REASON FOR REPORT

1.1 The report updates the Committee on the work of Internal Audit.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 The Audit, Performance and Risk Committee is asked to consider and note this audit update.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS) require the Chief Internal Auditor to prepare and present reports to committee on internal audit's activity relative to the audit plan and on any other relevant matters.

3.2 Challenges associated with the pandemic still remain, resulting in significant changes within current working practices that make the audit process more difficult and uncertainty still remains regarding these arrangements in the period ahead. All audit staff are still working from home, which brings some limitations to the audit process.

4. KEY MATTERS RELEVANT TO RECOMMENDATION

Self-Directed Support (SDS)

4.1 An audit has been undertaken into the financial monitoring arrangements within the SDS Team for direct payments made to service users. The audit has checked for effective arrangements in the monitoring of funds issued to service users. A check was also made to ensure that monies awarded and expenditures incurred by service users correspond to their support plan. The review has now been completed, and it is hoped the Executive Summary and audit action plan showing recommendations will be reported to the next Audit, Performance and Risk Committee.

Audit Plan 2022/23

- 4.2 The internal audit plan is a means of determining the priorities of the internal audit activity and how these fit with the broader goals of the Council. Internal audit's approach to annual audit planning is risk-based with all areas which may be subject to audit review contained within an 'audit universe.' The audit universe is reviewed and updated on an ongoing basis to include all significant activities and systems that contribute to achieving the Council's priorities and objectives.
- 4.3 Consultation with officers has started as part of the process for preparing the Audit Plan for 2022/23. An agreement will also be sought for timescales by officers in responding to recommendations.

Staffing

- 4.4 The positions of the Audit and Risk Manager and the Auditor have now been filled. However, this has resulted in a vacancy for a Senior Auditor. A recruitment process has started and it is hoped the position will be filled shortly.

5. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Corporate Plan and 10 Year Plan (Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP)) and Moray Integration Joint Board Strategic Plan "Moray Partners in Care 2019 – 2029"

Internal audit work supports good governance and assists in securing appropriate systems of internal control.

(b) Policy and Legal

The internal audit service is provided in terms of paragraph 7:1 of the Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014, and there is a requirement to provide a service in accordance with published Public Sector Internal Audit Standards.

(c) Financial Implications

No implications directly arising from this report.

(d) Risk Implications

Audit reports highlight risk implications and contain recommendations for management to address as a means of mitigating.

(e) Staffing Implications

No implications directly arising from this report

(f) Property

No implications.

(g) Equalities/ Socio Economic Impacts

No implications.

(h) Consultations

There have been no direct consultations during the preparation of this report.

6. CONCLUSION

6.1 Internal audit continues to work under the limitations of the pandemic and this report provides committee with an update on internal audit work progressed in the latest review period.

Author of Report: Dafydd Lewis, Chief Internal Auditor
Background Papers: Internal Audit Files
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