

LEARNING DISABILITIES – AUDIT PROJECT 18'008**INTERIM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Moray Integration Joint Board (MIJB) annual audit plan for 2017/18 included a project relative to commissioning of services; specifically for service users with Learning Disabilities (LD). The objective of the audit was to consider the effectiveness of current contracts in place and of monitoring and review procedures.

In terms of scale, the MIJB made provision of some £15 million for LD services in 2017/18 broadly split across three categories, provider services at £2.4 million, commissioning contracts being the scope of this audit at £7.1 million and specialist services at £5.3 million. Internal audit conducted an analysis of these costs to determine the scope of service provision, much of which is being delivered through contracts placed with private sector providers. These contract arrangements have been extended a number of times, and for the most part have been identified by service management as in need of urgent review due to commissioned services no longer meeting service user needs. Interim contract arrangements are currently in place due to the expiry of a vast number of contracts at the end of 17/18 and will be reviewed in line with the transformational programme being conducted for the majority of externally provided services.

The Transformation of LD services programme has been underway since 2016 and involved the engagement of specialist consultants to inform the scope of service provision the MIJB now needs to secure in order to meet future service demands. LD have prioritised the contracts which there is most need to move to a re-designed provision to meet the needs of service users, and the decommissioning of existing services and recommissioning of new services will follow according to a timeline operating until 2021. The new commissioning process will have an outcome focused approach recognising the lack of effective contract and performance monitoring in previous periods.

Change management is essentially for the service to take forward, however, internal audit can take an interest in the process as it progresses, through a review of decision making and procurement processes or testing of expenditure incurred in delivery of services. At this stage in the process, an audit exercise has been undertaken to sample expenditure incurred during 2017/18 to provide assurances that the funding used has been correctly authorised, controlled and applied to meet the assessed needs of service users. This has been done through a review of three LD contracts, costing MIJB £2.3 million for the year, and seeking confirmation that the payments made to these service providers are proper payments due and payable by the MIJB.

Work meantime continues to modernise service provision in a manner which recognises changed expectations, for example, arising from personalisation, while managing cost pressures and seeking to secure optimal care solutions for users of LD services.