

## **Audit Committee Report to Grampian NHS Board Committee Meeting on 7 January 2020**

### **Purpose of Report**

To brief the Board on key issues, discussed on 7 January 2020, which the Audit Committee consider should be of interest to all Board members.

### **Recommendations**

It is recommended that Board Members note the issues outlined below.

### **Key Issues**

#### **1. General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)**

The Committee received a report from Mr Alan Bell, Head of Information Governance, detailing progress against key actions to address the recommendations from the GDPR readiness review prepared by our internal auditors, PwC in December 2017. Members recognised the challenges and welcomed the progress to date but continued to express concern that the establishment of formal governance arrangements and the development of a system-wide information asset register remain incomplete. Mr Bell was asked to provide a further report on progress to the next Audit Committee meeting in March 2020.

#### **2. External Audit Plan**

The Committee received a briefing from Audit Scotland, the Board's external auditors, on the key areas of focus for the 2019/20 audit including an overview of planned activities and timescales to be achieved in order to complete the process by June 2020. In addition to risks associated with the financial statements, the audit will consider how NHS Grampian is responding to and addressing other wider risks including performance, EU withdrawal, delivery of financial targets and workforce supply. The Best Value aspect of this year's audit will focus on the effectiveness of the Board's arrangements in respect of Equality.

#### **3. Best Value Auditing**

The Committee also received a briefing from Audit Scotland on the development of Best Value audit in Integration Joint Boards (IJBs). Stakeholder engagement will be essential to ensure that the approach complements the programme of strategic inspections by the Care Inspectorate and Healthcare Improvement Scotland. The Committee noted that the thinking around a new approach is at an early stage with steps likely to be taken to implement new arrangements alongside Audit Scotland's new Code of Audit Practice due to commence from financial year 2021/22.

#### **4. Backlog Maintenance**

The Committee received an update from Mr Graeme Legge, Strategic Asset Manager, on progress against the Board's backlog maintenance plan. The Committee were encouraged by the progress to date, in particular against the commitment to reduce high risk backlog maintenance in clinical areas by 2020. Mr Legge advised that although funding remains a challenge, work is on target to achieve the plan approved by Grampian NHS Board in 2014. The Committee have requested a further update on progress in September 2020.

**5. Audit Committee Development Session 17 March 2020**

The Committee considered the agenda for its next annual development session which will focus on the continually evolving area of Cyber Security. The session, to be facilitated by Mrs Lindsey Paterson, the Board's Chief Internal Auditor and a partner with PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, will involve presentations from in-house and external subject matter experts with an opportunity for questions and answers. The objective of the session will be to test our understanding of the Boards current risk profile and mitigation measures in relation to cyber threats. The session is scheduled for 17 March 2020 from 2pm to 4pm and is open to all Board Members and to members of the System Leadership Team. Those interested in attending please advise Else Smaaskjaer at [else.smaaskjaer@nhs.net](mailto:else.smaaskjaer@nhs.net).

Sandy Riddell  
Audit Committee Chair  
27 January 2020