



**REPORT TO:** East Lothian IJB Audit and Risk Committee

**MEETING DATE:** 6 June 2023

**BY:** Chief Internal Auditor

**SUBJECT:** Internal Audit Memo – Directions Setting

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## **1 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To inform the Audit and Risk Committee of the Memo issued by Internal Audit in relation to Directions Setting.

## **2 RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 That the Audit and Risk Committee note the contents of the memo.

## **3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 An assurance review of Directions Setting was scheduled as part of the Audit Plan for 2022/23 for completion between March and May 2023.
- 3.2 The process for setting Directions, under the new Directions Policy approved at the East Lothian IJB on October 2022, was still being completed through the Strategic Planning Group in May 2023. As a result of this ongoing process it would be inappropriate to complete a full audit review at this stage as it would not provide a comprehensive assurance review. A further review will be considered at a later stage following further implementation of the policy.
- 3.3 Assurance is provided however that an appropriate Directions Policy is in place and Directions setting processes are progressing under this Policy.

## **4 ENGAGEMENT**

- 4.1 The memo have been discussed with Management, and does not require wider engagement.

## **5 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 None

## **6 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

6.1 The subject of this report does not affect the wellbeing of the community or have a significant impact on equality, the environment or economy.

## **7 DIRECTIONS**

7.1 The subject of this report does not require any amendment to or creation of Directions.

## **8 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 Financial - None

8.2 Personnel - None

8.3 Other - None

## **9 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

9.1 None

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<b>DATE</b>	26 May 2023



## East Lothian Integration Joint Board Internal Audit Memo

From:	Duncan Stainbank, Service Manager – Internal Audit
To:	Chief Officer – Fiona Wilson Head of Operations – Iain Gorman General Manager Planning and Performance – Laura Kerr
Date:	26 <sup>th</sup> May 2023

### East Lothian IJB Directions 2022-23

#### 1. Background

The Public Bodies (Joint Working)(Scotland) Act 2014 requires the Integration Joint Board to produce a Strategic Plan which need to be implemented by the Partners via a series of Directions that allocates appropriate tasks to each of the partners to improve the quality and sustainability of care.

The audit of Directions Setting was included in the East Lothian IJB Audit Plan for 2022/23 to ensure that the IJB Strategic Plan 2022-2025 had been reflected in the revised Directions.

#### 2. Findings

We were informed that new Statutory Guidance had been issued by the Scottish Government in January 2020. Directions are a legal mechanism and are intended to clarify responsibilities and requirements between partners, that is, between the IJB, the Local Authority and the Health Board. They are the means via which clarity on decision making is achieved under integration. Directions are therefore both a necessary and important aspect of governance under integration, providing a means by which responsibilities are made clear and evident.

Following a period of discussion an amended Directions Policy was approved by the East Lothian IJB at its October 2022 meeting. Proposals to the Strategic Planning Group identified that the IJB will have 4 'core directions' and that these will be augmented by additional Directions as and when they are needed. The existing Directions will be reviewed to assess whether further individual Directions are required and will be assigned to a change board or the strategic planning group and linked to the strategic plan.

#### 3. Conclusions

As a result of the changes to the Directions setting process consideration of the Strategic Plan approved in 2022 has not been undertaken (not in findings) to assess how this will be allocated across the 4 core directions or other directions required.

Assurance can be provided that an appropriate policy is in place and has been approved. However at the time of the review the detail of the directions was still to be approved and a full audit review will be undertaken when the new policy has operated through a yearly cycle. No further audit work has, therefore been undertaken at this stage.

