



REPORT TO: East Lothian IJB Audit & Risk Committee

MEETING DATE: 18 March 2025

BY: Chief Internal Auditor

SUBJECT: Internal Audit Plan 2025/26

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To inform the Audit and Risk Committee of Internal Audit's operational plan for 2025/26.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Audit and Risk Committee is asked to approve the Audit Plan for 2025/26.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The annual audit plan has been prepared in accordance with Global Internal Audit Standards (GIAS) as modified by the Public Sector Application Note.

- 3.2 In preparing the annual audit plan a range of factors have been taken into account, including:

- The Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014, which sets out the framework for integrated adult health and social care services
- The Integration Scheme
- The IJB Strategic Plan 2022-2025
- The IJB risk register in place
- Changes in service delivery

- 3.3 Internal Audit will evaluate the adequacy and effectiveness of controls in responding to risks within the IJB's governance, operations and information systems, regarding the:

- Achievement of the IJB's strategic objectives.
 - Reliability and integrity of financial and operational information.
 - Effectiveness and efficiency of operations and programmes.
 - Safeguarding of assets.
 - Compliance with laws, regulations, policies, procedures and contracts.
- 3.4 The provision of the Internal Audit service is by East Lothian Council's Internal Audit Unit in partnership with the NHS Lothian Internal Audit team. Internal Audit in NHS Lothian has recently been retendered for with a change of supplier from Grant Thornton LLP to BDO LLP, it has been anticipated that the same arrangements will apply to use of NHS Lothian Internal Audit team resources, this will be confirmed following management discussions.
- 3.5 Internal Audit will adopt a risk-based approach to audit assignments as the principal means of providing assurance on the adequacy, reliability and effectiveness of internal controls. Testing of controls will be carried out on a sample basis.
- 3.6 For each individual audit, a detailed audit report will be prepared for the IJB Chief Officer and copies of the audit report will be provided to External Audit and to members of the IJB Audit and Risk Committee.
- 3.7 Audit reports will highlight areas where expected controls have been met and areas where there is scope for improvement. The reports will contain detailed recommendations and record management responses to the recommendations.
- 3.8 Follow-up of all recommendations will be carried out, and formal follow up reviews completed for all reports graded limited or no assurance.
- 3.9 An Annual Internal Audit Opinion and Report will be prepared at the end of the financial year, outlining:
- A statement of the level of conformance with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards and Local Government Application Note and the results of the Quality Assurance and Improvement Programme that support the statement.
 - An opinion on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the IJB's framework of governance, risk management and control together with a summary of the work supporting the opinion.
- 3.10 The detailed Audit Plan for 2025/26 is attached as Appendix A

4 ENGAGEMENT

- 4.1 The Audit Plan has been discussed with Management, but 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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DATE	28 February 2025

APPENDIX A**AUDIT PLAN 2025/26**

AUDITABLE AREAS	SCOPE OF THE AUDIT	INTERNAL AUDIT ASSESSED RISK	WEEKS
Financial Planning	Internal Audit will review the processes in place to Develop a medium term financial strategy that aligns with the IJB strategic Planning process.	High	6
Participation and Engagement	Internal Audit will review the processes of ensuring participation and engagement with the community and specific stakeholder groups..	Medium	4
Shifting the Balance of Care	The NHS Lothian Internal Audit team will review the processes in place to develop strategies for shifting the balance of care ti community settings and how the IJB has reflected this in financial and strategic reporting and reported against projects undertaken.	High	NHS Audit Team
Follow-up Audits	Internal Audit will follow-up on previously issued audit reports to ensure that recommendations made have been implemented by Management.	Low	2
Other Audit Work	Time has been allocated for other audit work including the preparation of the audit plan, self-assessment against the Global Internal Audit Standards and the preparation of the annual internal audit opinion and report and the preparation of the Annual Governance Statement.	Low	3