

FTF Internal Audit Service

Annual Internal Audit Report 2021/22

Report No. B06/23

Issued To: Carol Potter, Chief Executive
Margo McGurk, Director of Finance and Strategy
NHS Fife Executive Directors Group

Gillian MacIntosh, Head of Corporate Governance and Board
Secretary

Audit & Risk Committee
External Audit

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Draft Report Issued	2 June 2022
Management Responses Received	6 June 2022
Target Audit & Risk Committee Date	16 June 2022
Final Report Issued	13 June 2022

INTRODUCTION AND CONCLUSION

1. This annual report to the Audit & Risk Committee provides details on the outcomes of the 2021/22 internal audit and my opinion on the Board's internal control framework for the financial year 2021/22.
2. Based on work undertaken throughout the year we have concluded that:

- The Board has adequate and effective internal controls in place;
- The 2021/22 internal audit plan has been delivered in line with Public Sector Internal Audit Standards.

3. In addition, we have not advised management of any concerns around the following:

- Consistency of the Governance Statement with information that we are aware of from our work;
- The description of the processes adopted in reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control and how these are reflected;
- The format and content of the Governance Statement in relation to the relevant guidance;
- The disclosure of all relevant issues.

ACTION

4. The Audit & Risk Committee is asked to **take assurance from** this report in evaluating the internal control environment and **report** accordingly to the Board.

AUDIT SCOPE & OBJECTIVES

5. The Strategic and Annual Internal Audit Plans for 2021/22 incorporated the requirements of the NHSScotland Governance Statement and were based on a joint risk assessment by Internal Audit and the Director of Finance & Strategy and were approved by both the Executive Directors Group (EDG) and the Audit & Risk Committee. The resultant audits range from risk based reviews of individual systems and controls through to the strategic governance and control environment.
6. The authority, role and objectives for Internal Audit are set out in Appendix 3 of the Board's Standing Financial Instructions and are consistent with Public Sector Internal Audit Standards.
7. Internal Audit is also required to provide the Audit & Risk Committee with an annual assurance statement on the adequacy and effectiveness of internal controls. The Audit & Assurance Committee Handbook states:

The Audit & Risk Committee should support the Accountable Officer and the Board by reviewing the comprehensiveness and reliability of assurances on governance, risk management, the control environment and the integrity of the financial statements and the annual report. The scope of the Committee's work should encompass all the assurance needs of the Accountable Officer and the Board. Within this the Committee should have particular engagement with the work of Internal Audit, risk management, the External Auditor, and financial management and reporting issues.

INTERNAL CONTROL

8. The Internal Control Evaluation (ICE), issued December 2021, was informed by detailed review of formal evidence sources including Board, Standing Committee, EDG and other papers. The ICE noted actions to enhance governance and achieve transformation and concluded that NHS Fife's assurance structures were adequate and effective. 12 recommendations were agreed for implementation by management.
9. The status of previous recommendations is summarised in the table on page 11. In addition, 3 recommendations from previous Internal Control Evaluations and Annual Reports remain in progress due to the ongoing impact of Covid:
 - Development of Population Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
 - Refinement of the Property Asset Management Strategy to support the Population Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
 - Development of Clinical and Care Governance Strategic Framework.
10. Throughout the year, our audits have provided assurance and made recommendations for improvements. Of these, the ICE was the most significant. We have undertaken detailed follow up of the agreed actions arising from that report as well as testing to identify any material changes to the control environment in the period from the issue of the ICE to the year-end. We have reflected on the ongoing impact of Covid19 on the governance arrangements in place during the year. Some areas for further development were identified and will be followed up in the 2022/23 ICE. Where applicable, our detailed findings have been included in the NHS Fife 2021/22 Governance Statement.
11. Our assessment of the progress to address ICE recommendations is detailed in the table on page 11. NHS Fife has demonstrated good progress with only minor slippage on the majority of actions, although clearly, the revision of the overall and supporting strategies will be a significant task and much work remains to be done. The 2022/23 ICE will provide an update on the remaining actions as well as providing an opinion on the efficacy of implementation of all agreed actions.
12. For 2021/22, the Governance Statement format and guidance were included within the NHSScotland Annual Accounts Manual. Whilst Health and Social Care Integration is not specifically referenced, the guidance does make clear that the Governance Statement applies to the consolidated financial statements as a whole, which would therefore include activities under the direction of IJBs.
13. The Board has produced a Governance Statement which states that:

'During the 2021/22 financial year, no other significant control weaknesses or issues have arisen, in the expected standards for good governance, risk management and control'.
14. Our audit work has provided evidence of compliance with the requirements of the Accountable Officer Memorandum, and this combined with a sound corporate governance framework in place within the Board throughout 2021/22, provides assurance for the Chief Executive as Accountable Officer.
15. Therefore, **it is my opinion** that:
 - The Board has adequate and effective internal controls in place;

- The Accountable Officer has implemented a governance framework in line with required guidance sufficient to discharge the responsibilities of this role.
16. All Executive Directors and Senior Managers were required to provide a statement confirming that adequate and effective internal controls and risk management arrangements were in place throughout the year across all areas of responsibility and, this process has been further enhanced by guidance written by the Director of Finance and Strategy. These assurances have been reviewed and no breaches of Standing Orders / Standing Financial Instructions were identified.
 17. The Governance Statement reflects the necessary changes to Board governance and operating arrangements due to Covid19. The Governance Statement includes details of the Board performance profile and risk management arrangements, and the future intention to revise organisational and supporting strategies. All elements of the Governance Statement have been considered by Internal Audit in previous internal audit annual reports and the ICE and have been followed up in detail in this report.

Key Themes

18. Detailed findings are shown later in the report. Key themes emerging from this review and other audit work during the year, as well as consideration of the overall impact of Covid19 and the need to ensure sustainable services, are detailed in the following paragraphs.
19. The Board continues to respond positively to the governance challenges posed by Covid19. During 2021/22, NHS Fife has adapted its approach to governance when needed to ensure the organisation could effectively respond to Covid19 and discharge its governance responsibilities, maximising time available for staff to deal with Covid19.
20. Operational performance in the face of the challenges posed by Covid has been difficult during the year and it is likely that the challenge will continue in the medium term until strategic solutions can be found, working in partnership with the IJB.
21. As previously reported in the 2021/22 ICE report, during 2021/22 the necessary focus has been on the immediate priority of the response to Covid19 and on government mandated actions and performance. The challenge now is balancing short term risks against longer term risks which can only be mitigated through strategic change. The shape of future strategy will be dependent on a number of complex factors, not all of which are known yet, but the Board has instigated the necessary preparatory work and a risk assessment to ensure the most urgent work is prioritised.
22. Whilst the Board planned to update all strategies during 2021/22, this work was necessarily paused due to Covid19. Updated timetables, detailing the roles and responsibilities of Standing Committees and the Board with key stages and targets documented will aid the progress needed to achieve the March 2023 completion date. Whilst the SGHSCD has set a number of very challenging national objectives, NHS Fife will need to be mindful that its own strategic objectives must be deliverable within acceptable risk tolerances.
23. NHS Fife continues to progress its Risk Management Framework Improvement Programme. Covid 19 risks will be considered as linked operational risks, corporate risks in their own right, or will be treated as business as usual as part of the Risk Management Framework development.

24. This report contains a number of recommendations that reflect the changes to the risk environment in which the Board operates. There are opportunities now to further enhance governance through the application of assurance mapping principles. Our recommendations are aimed at ensuring coherence between Governance Structures, Performance Management, Risk Management and Assurance.

Key developments since the issue of the ICE included:

- The April 2022 NHS Fife Board Development session on Culture, Values and the Role of the Board and Developing our Population Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
 - A Risk Management Framework Improvement Programme was approved by the NHS Fife Board in March 2022.
 - The updated Fife IJB Integration Scheme was formally signed off by the Scottish Government on 8 March 2022.
 - Progress against the 4th iteration of the Remobilisation Plan was reported to the May 2022 meeting of the Finance, Performance & Resources Committee (FPRC), with all incomplete action to be included in the 2022/23 Annual Delivery Plan.
 - The development of the Operational Pressures Escalation Levels (OPEL) process to manage day-to-day pressures, with clear triggers for action and escalation.
 - A review of the Integrated Performance and Quality Report (IPQR) content and format to address actions from the Board's Active Governance session and to ensure it remains relevant and clear to Board members.
 - As of April 2022, NHS Scotland is no longer on emergency footing.
25. During 2021/22 we delivered 25 audit products (May 2021 to June 2022) with a further two products issued in draft. These audits reviewed the systems of financial and management control operating within the Board.
26. Our 2021/22 audits of the various financial and business systems provided opinions on the adequacy of controls in these areas. Summarised findings or the full report for each review were presented to the Audit & Risk Committee throughout the year.
27. A number of our reports, including the ICE and Strategy development, have been wide ranging and complex audits and have relevance to a wide range of areas within NHS Fife. These reports continue to assist NHS Fife to build on the very good work already being done to improve and sustain service provision.
28. Board management continue to respond positively to our findings and action plans have been agreed to improve the systems of control. Internal audit have maintained a system for the follow-up of audit recommendations and reporting of results to the Audit & Risk Committee. As reported to the March 2022 Audit & Risk Committee, 37 audit actions were remaining, with 11 risk assessed as Amber – action required, 23 risk assessed as Green – good progress and 3 not yet due.

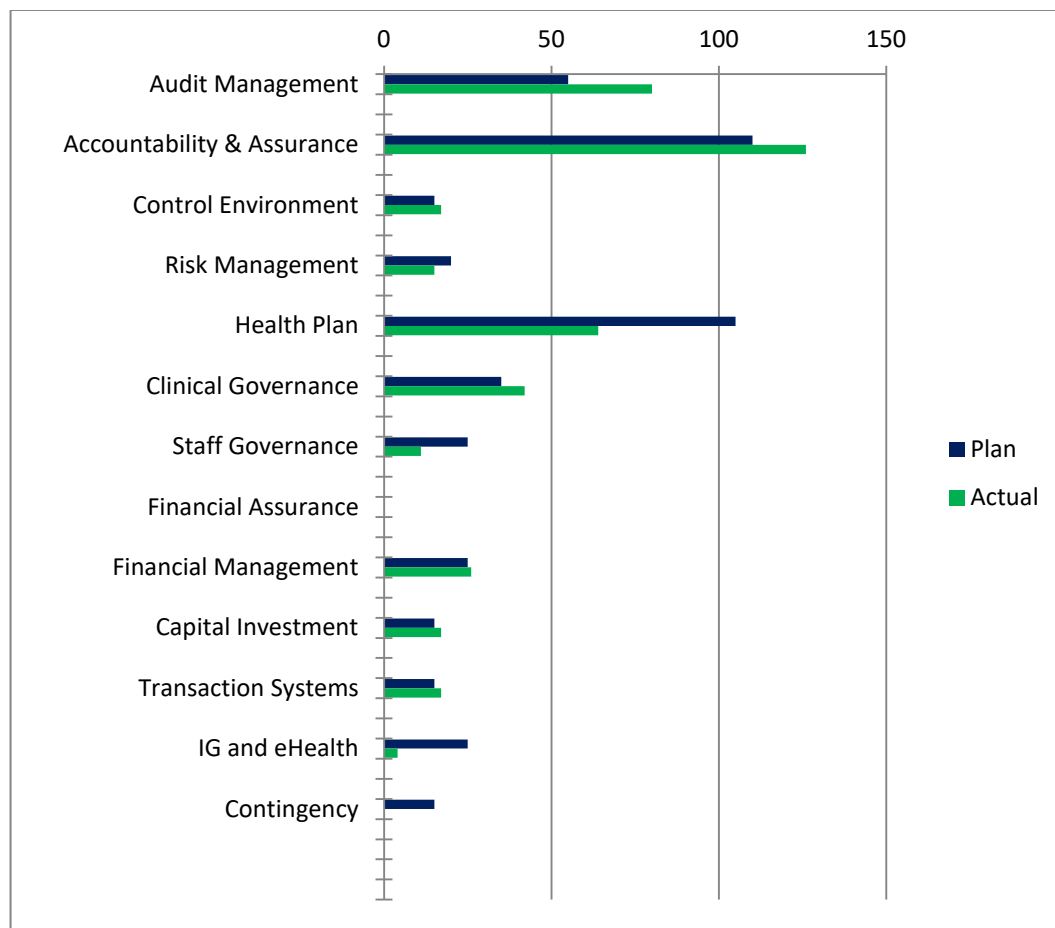
ADDED VALUE

29. The Internal Audit Service has been responsive to the needs of the Board and has assisted the Board and added value by:
- Examining a wide range of controls in place across the organisation.
 - Undertaking Fife IJB internal audits and providing a Chief Internal Auditor Service.
 - For the Fife Integrated Joint Board (IJB), updating and enhancing the IJB Governance Statement self assessment checklist.
 - Providing initial comment on a draft version of the now approved Integration Scheme.

- CIA liaison with the Director of Finance & Strategy, on issues of governance, risk, control and assurance.
 - Assurance mapping and risk management advice, in particular on Digital and Information risk reports.
 - Advice on the revised Terms of Reference for the Digital Information Board, Information Governance and Security Steering and Operational Groups and attendance at their meetings.
 - Assurance reporting regarding Whistle blowing (quarterly and annual).
 - Commenting on Terms of Reference for the Quality Management Assurance Group.
 - Facilitating the work of the Assurance Mapping group and liaising with the Board Secretary to consider how the agreed principles can be adapted to the specific needs of NHS Fife.
 - Highlighting national governance developments with relevance to NHS Fife.
 - Continued development and use of the principles for Health & Social Care Integration (HSCI) governance and sustainability within the Board and its IJB partner.
 - Detailed review of the process for revising NHS Fife's overall Strategy.
 - Providing opinion on and evidence in support of the Governance Statement at year-end and conducting an extensive Internal Control Evaluation which permitted remedial action to be taken in-year. This review made recommendations focused on enhancements to ensure NHS Fife has in place appropriate and proportionate governance, which supports and monitors the delivery of objectives and is commensurate with the challenging environment within which it is operating.
 - Contribution to the development of the NHS Fife Risk Management Strategy and Fife IJB Risk Management Framework.
 - Advice provided to the Fraud Liaison Officer in response to an ongoing incident and attendance at meeting.
30. Internal Audit have also used time made available by necessary senior management prioritisation of Covid19 duties to reflect on our working practices, both to build on action taken in response to previous External Quality Reviews and to adapt to a post Covid19 environment. This has included:
- Update of the Committee Assurance Principles.
 - Development of a good practice template for the process of developing new Strategic Plans in IJBs and Health Boards.
 - Development of the FTF website.
 - Review and update of the FTF self assessment against the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards.
 - Reviewed our recommendation priorities to include an additional category 'Moderate' and updated the assurance definitions.
 - Updated the Property Transaction Monitoring Checklist for FTF clients.
31. The 2021/22 Annual Internal Audit Plan included provision for delivering audit services, together with council colleagues, and providing the Chief Internal Auditor function to Fife Integrated Joint Board as well as progressing the audit plan of Fife IJB agreed with the IJB. Internal Audit has continued to highlight governance and assurance aspects of integration and the need for clear lines of accountability and ownership of risk as well as the requirement for a revised Strategic Plan and working with partners to clear intractable and long-standing issues.

INTERNAL AUDIT COVERAGE

32. Figure 1: Internal Audit Cover 2021/22



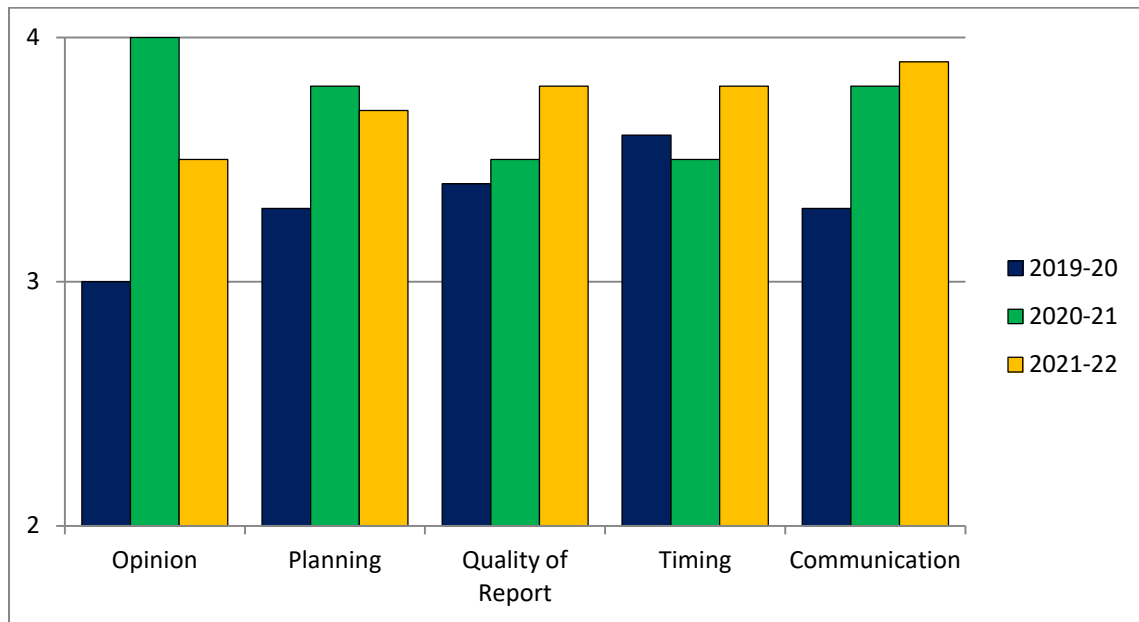
33. Figure 1 summarises the 2021/22 outturn position against the planned internal audit cover. The initial Annual Internal Audit Plan was approved by the Audit & Risk Committee at its meeting on 13 May 2021. It was agreed at that time that the plan would be revised as changes to the risk profile and other factors became better known, and the Audit & Risk Committee approved amendments in March 2022. We have delivered 412 days against the 455 planned days.
34. Following a recommendation from the External Quality Assessment (EQA) carried out on Internal Audit in 2018/19, we continue with the agreed process of risk assessing outstanding 2021/22 audits for inclusion in the 2022/23 plan.
35. A summary of 2021/22 performance is shown in Section 3.

PERFORMANCE AGAINST THE SERVICE SPECIFICATION AND PUBLIC SECTOR INTERNAL AUDIT STANDARDS (PSIAS)

36. Due to prioritisation of Covid19 duties, the FTF Partnership Board met only once in 2021/22. The Partnership Board is chaired by the NHS Tayside Director of Finance and the FTF client Directors of Finance are members. The FTF Management Team attends all meetings. During the year the Partnership Board reviewed the Internal Audit Shared Service Agreement 2018-2023 and the Internal Audit Service Specification, as well as approving the 2021/22 budget. The Partnership Board also approved revised risk assessment definitions for internal audit reporting.
37. We have designed protocols for the proper conduct of the audit work at the Board to ensure compliance with the specification and the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS).
38. Internal Audit is compliant with PSIAS, and has organisational independence as defined by PSIAS, except that, in common with many NHSScotland bodies, the Chief Internal Auditor reports through the Director of Finance and Strategy rather than the Accountable Officer. There are no impairments to independence or objectivity.
39. Internal and External Audit liaise closely to ensure that the audit work undertaken in the Board fulfils both regulatory and legislative requirements. Both sets of auditors are committed to avoiding duplication and securing the maximum value from the Board's investment in audit.
40. Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS) require an independent external assessment of internal audit functions once every five years. The most recent External Quality Assessment (EQA) of the NHS Fife Internal Audit Service in 2018/19 concluded that, *'it is my opinion that the FTF Internal Audit service for Fife and Forth Valley generally conforms with the PSIAS.'* FTF has updated its self assessment which is due to be presented to the June 2022 Audit & Risk Committee.
41. A key measure of the quality and effectiveness of the audits is the Board responses to our client satisfaction surveys, which are sent to line managers following the issue of each audit report. Figure 2 shows that, overall, our audits have been perceived as good or very good by the report recipients.

42. Figure 2: Summary of Client Satisfaction Surveys

Scoring: 1 = poor, 2 = fair, 3= good, 4 = very good.



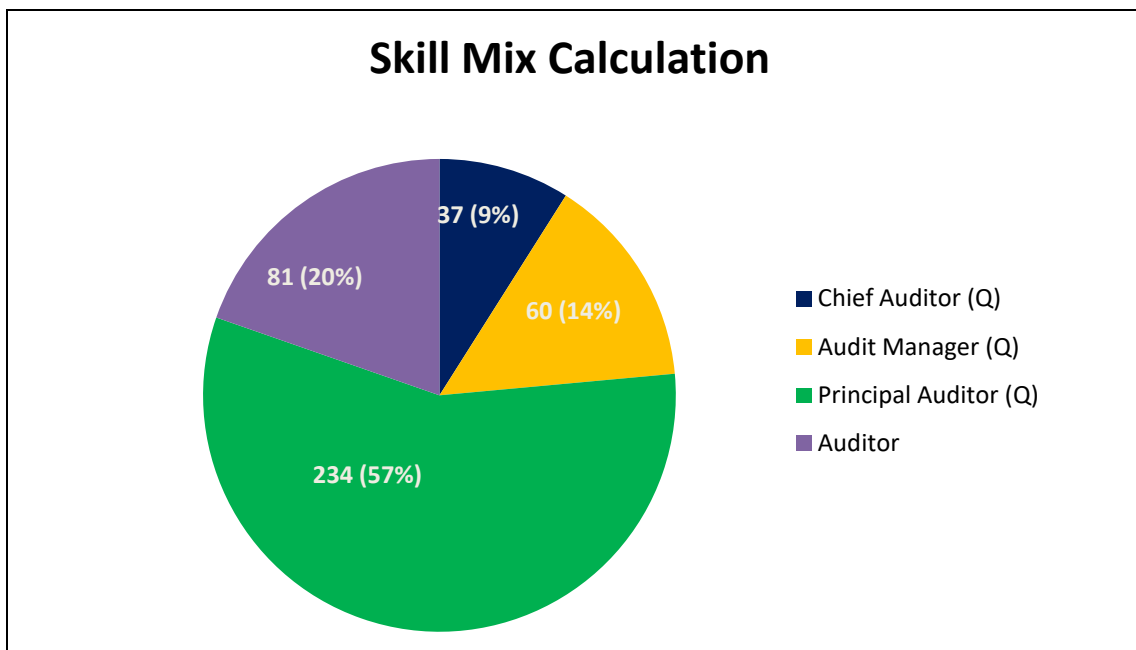
43. Other detailed performance statistics are shown in Section 3.

STAFFING AND SKILL MIX

44. Figure 3 below provides an analysis, by staff grade and qualification, of our time. In 2021/22 the audit was delivered with a skill mix of 81%, which substantially exceeds the minimum service specification requirement of 50% and reflects the complexities of the work undertaken during the year.

45. Figure 3: Audit Staff Skill Mix 2021/22



Audit Staff Inputs in 2021/22[days] Q= qualified input.







ACKNOWLEDGEMENT




46. On behalf of the Internal Audit Service I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of staff within the Board for the help and co-operation extended to Internal Audit.
47. My team and I have greatly appreciated the positive support of the Chief Executive, Director of Finance & Strategy, the Board Secretary, EDG and the Audit & Risk Committee.




A Gaskin, BSc. ACA
Chief Internal Auditor



ICE 2021/22(B08/22) - Update of Progress Against Actions		
Agreed Management Actions with Dates	Progress with agreed Management Actions	Assurance Against Progress
<p>1. Board Assurance Framework</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The inclusion of appropriate analysis in each SBAR supporting the BAFs regarding the adequacy and effectiveness of key controls and actions would promote/aid further scrutiny by committee members. The Board Assurance Framework should encompass and link Covid19 risks, to ensure the NHS Board has appropriate oversight and transparency over these risks. Once the revised Integration Scheme has been approved by the Scottish Government, the IJB BAF should be revised to ensure that it adequately describes the risk the mitigating controls and appropriately scored. <p>Action Owner: Chief Executive & Director of Finance</p> <p>Original date of expected completion for all of the above is the 31 March 2022.</p>	<p>A detailed Risk Management Improvement Plan has been developed. It was agreed with the EDG in February 2022 and presented for assurance to each Standing Committee in May 2022. This sets out the further work required to complete and embed the changes required.</p> <p>Date Expected Completed – 31 July 2022</p>	 <p>Minor slippage on agreed timelines</p>
<p>2. Performance Reporting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As part of this Active Governance action plan, consideration should be given to how Performance Reports can provide overt assurance on the accuracy of the narrative and scores for related strategic (BAF) risks as well as the adequacy and effectiveness of key controls. The risk section of Board and Committee papers should be given higher priority than at present and should contain basic information to facilitate a focused discussion on the risk implications, be overtly linked to any operational or BAF risks and contain enough information for members to be able to form a conclusion on whether the score narrative and other elements of the related risk are adequately described. <p>Action Owner: Director of Finance and Strategy</p> <p>Original date of expected completion for all of the above is the 31 March 2022.</p>	<p>A detailed Improvement Plan has been developed and was agreed with EDG in February 2022 and the FPRC in March 2022. This sets out the further work required to complete and embed the changes required. Aspects of the plan have been completed.</p> <p>Date Expected Completed – 30 June 2022</p>	 <p>Minor slippage on agreed timelines</p>



<p>3.Organisational Duty of Candour</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An update on the number of instances Organisational Duty of Candour has been applied in NHS Fife in 2021/22 should be scheduled for presentation to Clinical Governance Committee (CGC) prior to it concluding on its Annual Assurance Report and Statement, which should highlight any issues experienced and be sufficient allow it to conclude whether there were adequate and effective Duty of Candour arrangements throughout 2021/22. The Committee should be informed when it can expect the final report on the year's activity and how arrangements will be developed in future to allow more timely reporting. <p>Action Owner: Medical Director</p> <p>Original date of expected completion for all of the above is the 31 March 2022.</p>	<p>The CGC considered the Interim 2020/21 NHS Fife Duty of Candour report at its 13 January 2022 meeting, and it was noted by Fife NHS Board at their meeting on 29 March 2022, although this related exclusively to Duty of Candour Activity that occurred in the financial year 2020/21.</p> <p>The CGC has not received any update on Duty of Candour Activity occurring in financial year 2021/22.</p> <p>The Medical Director advised that delays to the adverse event process in its entirety are a known consequence of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on service pressures. Recovery to a state where more timely reporting is heavily dependent on the recovery of the backlog of closure of adverse event reviews.</p>	 <p>Significant Slippage</p>
<p>4. Adverse Events KPIs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The revised approach for Adverse Events should include regular reporting of KPIs to CGC on the completion of adverse events within agreed timescales. <p>Action Owner: Medical Director</p> <p>Original date of expected completion for all of the above is the 30 April 2022.</p>	<p>The Clinical Governance Oversight Group (CGOG) merged with the Adverse Events and Duty of Candour Group and its revised Terms of reference were presented to the CGOG meeting on 19 April 2022. These include the responsibility 'To oversee the development and implementation of local guidance relating to Adverse Events and Duty of Candour including monitoring of performance against agreed measures'.</p> <p>For this action to be considered complete we need evidence of the new reporting arrangements to CGOG operating in practice and will report on this in the 2022/23 ICE report.</p> <p>The Medical Director advised that there is currently no plan, unless by escalation, to routinely report these KPI's with the CGC.</p>	 <p>Minor slippage on agreed timelines</p>
<p>5. Succession Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Staff Governance Committee (SGC) and Remuneration Committee should be assured 	<p>Within the draft Workforce Plan 2022-25 there is a medium term action for</p>	 <p>On track</p>

<p>on succession planning arrangements within NHS Fife and of the potential risks associated with this area.</p> <p>Action Owner: Director of Workforce</p> <p>Original date of expected completion for all of the above is the 31 October 2022.</p>	<p>Directorate level Workforce Plans, to consider succession planning implications for a range of critical roles, including advanced practitioners grades and above. This will give assurance to the SGC that succession planning is being considered, but the SGC and Remuneration Committee still require a full update on the implementation of these arrangements and the potential risks associated with this area.</p>	
<p>6. Staff Governance Standards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To enable the SGC to fully ascertain the SGS initiatives introduced during 2021/22 and provide a measure of their success in meeting the requirements of the SGS, the assurances given at those meetings should give an equivalent level of assurance to that of previous years (per the previously maintained SGAP), setting out actions and assurances still to be provided and the reasons for any delays. <p>Action Owner: Director of workforce.</p> <p>Original date of expected completion for all of the above is the 31 March 2022.</p>	<p>This recommendation has not been implemented as agreed. For 2021/22 only verbal updates on the action taken to meet the SGS has been provided at the September 2021 and March 2022 SGC meetings. No documented record has been provided of the initiatives introduced and the actions and assurances still to be provided and the reason for any delays.</p> <p>As part of its 2021/22 Annual Assurance Statement the Committee has agreed to “enhancing the signposting on papers and agenda items, to make it clear which strand of the Standards is being addressed, to ensure full coverage across the Committee’s yearly workplan”.</p>	 <p>Significant Slippage</p>

<p>7. IPQR and Financial Sustainability BAF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Links between the Financial Sustainability BAF and IPQR should be clear and overtly linked so the controls/mitigations of the BAF provide assurance that challenges within the IPQR is being managed. • The financial sustainability BAF should be updated to include links to Strategy, PMO Savings Programme and relevant External audit recommendations. <p>Action Owner: Director of Finance and Strategy</p> <p>Original date of expected completion for all of the above is the 31 March 2022.</p>	<p>An Improvement Plan has been developed and was agreed with EDG in February 2022 and the March 2022 FPRC. This sets out the further work required to complete and embed the changes required. Concluding this recommendation has clear links to the ongoing requirements of Risk Management Improvement Plan.</p> <p>The development of the Financial Improvement/Sustainability (FIS) Programme will support the delivery of efficiency savings and closing significant external audit recommendations.</p> <p>Date Expected Completed – 31 July 2022</p>	 <p>Minor slippage on agreed timelines</p>
<p>8. Property & Asset Management Strategy (PAMS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The risks around delivery of the PAMs and capital programme would benefit from having a BAF or operational risk which would aid and support the delivery of the future Health and Wellbeing Strategy. <p>Action Owner: Director of Property and Asset Management</p> <p>Original date of expected completion for all of the above is the 31 March 2022.</p>	<p>The Environmental Sustainability BAF presented to the FPRC in May 2022 has committed to a new corporate risk related to the Capital Programme and Property Strategy to be developed within the revised Risk Management Framework.</p> <p>Date Expected Completed – 31 July 2022</p>	 <p>Minor slippage on agreed timelines</p>
<p>9. IG&S Assurance Reporting to CGC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular assurance reporting from the IG&SSG to CGC should be scheduled in the workplan of CGC for 2021/22 and future years. • This should include a regular Assurance Report as well as IG&SSG minutes. • The Assurance report should include clear, sufficient and reliable assurance on the key aspects of IG&S so that the CGC can conclude on the adequacy and effectiveness of Information Governance arrangements at year end. <p>Action Owner: Associate Director of Digital and Information</p> <p>Original date of expected completion for all of the above is the 28 April 2022</p>	<p>Activity Tracker report provided IG&S assurance to CGC at their meeting on 10 March 2022 and updates are scheduled in the committee's 2022/23 workplan for September 2022 and March 2023.</p>	 <p>Complete and Validated</p>

<p>10. Information Governance and Security Policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assurance provided regarding Information Governance Policies and Procedures should be improved so that a list of all policies and procedures and their review dates is provided to the IG&S Operational Group and percentage compliance, regarding reviewed within scheduled review date, figures are reported to the IG&S Steering Group. Progress towards mitigating the risk regarding lack of resources for Information Governance and Security Policy Management should also be reported to the IG&S Steering Group. The NHS Fife Information Security Policy [GP/I5] and NHS Fife Data Protection and Confidentiality Policy [GP/D3] must be reviewed at the earliest opportunity. The review should specifically consider the impact of the pandemic and the increase in fraud risk and remote working implications. <p>Action Owner: Associate Director of Digital and Information</p> <p>Original date of expected completion for all of the above is the 14 February 2022</p>	<p>The IG&S Key Measures Report to March 2022 IG&SSG includes an update on policies at section 5.</p> <p>Reporting on how the required level of resources was being provided was included in section 4.5 of the IG&SSG Annual Assurance Statement.</p> <p>Revised Information Security Policy (GP/I5) is published on Stafflink with a scheduled review date of January 2025.</p> <p>Although we are advised that the NHS Fife Data Protection and Confidentiality Policy [GP/D3] has been reviewed, and is being presented to the General Policies Group and EDG for approval, the version of the policy published on Stafflink is the old version which had a scheduled review date of 1 June 2021.</p>	 <p>Minor slippage on agreed timelines</p>
<p>11. Information Governance Incident Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The assurance route for reporting of assurances on Information Governance incidents needs to be clarified and streamlined to provide sufficient assurance to CGC. <p>Action Owner: Associate Director of Digital and Information</p> <p>Original date of expected completion for all of the above is the 31 March 2022</p>	<p>Section 6.1 of the IG&SSG Annual Assurance Report includes the recommended details regarding IG&S incidents.</p> <p>This was considered by IG&S Steering Group following cancellation of scheduled meeting on 8 April 2022 and then by CGC 29 April 2022.</p>	 <p>Complete and Validated</p>
<p>12. Digital and Information Risk Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is important that the processes for recording and managing risks related to Digital and Information are sufficient to provide CGC with assurance regarding these risks at year end on the accuracy of risk ratings, and the adequacy and effectiveness of key controls and actions. The impact of the pandemic on Digital and Information risks should be considered and specific assurance on this should be 	<p>The risk reports presented to IG&SSG and Digital & Information Board have been updated in format throughout 2021/22 and a review of all risks was undertaken which included revisiting the scoring and considered the impact of the pandemic. The new format includes graphical representation to highlight risks with improved or deteriorating ratings and provides</p>	 <p>Complete and Validated</p>

<p>provided to CGC.</p> <p>Action Owner: Associate Director of Digital and Information</p> <p>Original date of expected completion for all of the above is the 31 May 2022</p>	<p>detailed analysis on the highest ranked risks which provided the Group with additional understanding of the risk and allowed them to consider if the management actions would mitigate the risk within a suitable timescale. To date the Group has been able to provide that assurance for the highest ranked risks.</p>	
ICE Report 2020/21 – B08/21		
<p>1. Long term Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The EDG should jointly agree how the various strands of work to inform and deliver the long term strategy for NHS Fife will be analysed and translated into a co-ordinated programme, building on the progress already made through the Strategic Planning and Resource Allocation (SPRA) as well as remobilisation planning, considering how best use can be made of existing expertise and data and understanding constraints on resources. This review should also consider how best to ensure effective governance and oversight of this key area in advance of the Board Development Session A timetable for development of the new Strategy and supporting strategies should be reported to the NHS Board. Reporting on progress should be clearly assigned to an Assurance Committee or the NHS Board and should include a broad overview of whether Recovery, Remobilisation and strategy development is on track, key achievements, challenges and risks and any significant implications for strategy and priorities. <p>Action Owner: Chief Executive</p> <p>Original date of expected completion for all of the above is the 31 March 2022.</p>	<p>The recommendation was integrated with the plan to develop the new Population Health and Wellbeing Strategy. Progress was made during 2021/22 on a number of key stages however the ongoing impact of the pandemic has led to delays.</p> <p>A paper detailing the re-phasing of this work was approved by the Public Health and Wellbeing Committee on 8 March 2022 and the NHS Fife Board at the end of March. The paper includes a milestone plan to deliver the new strategy by the end of December 2022, with Board approval by the end of March 2023. The paper also sets out the Portfolio Board arrangements to support the development of the strategy work and the governance route for each activity as the plan is developed.</p> <p>Date Expected Completed – 31 March 2023</p>	<p>Pausing of development activities as a consequence of the pandemic.</p>  <p>Minor slippage on agreed timelines</p>
<p>3. Clinical Governance Framework</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of the Clinical Governance Strategy and Clinical Governance Assurance Framework with a focus on risk, informed by Committee Assurance and Integration 	<p>Progress has slipped slightly from original targets to allow further engagement with staff which has been taking place regarding a draft version of the NHS Fife Clinical and</p>	 <p>Minor slippage on agreed timelines</p>

<p>Principles.</p> <p>Action Owner: Medical Director</p> <p>Original date of expected completion for all of the above is the 31 March 2022.</p>	<p>Care Governance Strategic Framework 2022-2025.</p> <p>It has been agreed with the Chair of the CGC, the Medical Director and Nursing Director that the Framework will be presented to CGC for approval at their meeting on 1 July 2022. The Medical Director advised that due to unforeseen circumstances a further extension has been deemed necessary.</p>	
<p>5. Property Management Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Property Management Strategy should be reviewed and revised to align it to updated NHS Fife Strategies and future sustainability and should specifically consider the impact of Covid19 around the property infrastructure going forward. <p>Action Owner: Director of Property and Asset Management</p> <p>Original date of expected completion for all of the above is the 30 August 2021</p>	<p>The paper considered by Fife NHS Board on 29 March 2022 on the plan for the Population Health and Wellbeing Strategy included the further development of the PAMS strategy.</p> <p>Date Expected Completed – 30 November 2022</p>	 <p>Minor slippage on agreed timelines</p>
<p>6. Information Governance and Security</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of IG&S Operational Group and Steering Group Terms of Reference (ToR) Digital and Information (D&I) Board to provide additional support and assurance to IG&S and its alignment to strategy and operational performance – April 2021 IG&S Assurance Report and Framework – March 2021 Assurance report will be made available for consideration at the next Clinical Governance Meeting, following the IG&S Steering Group meeting on 23 March 2021. Risk associated with resources and requirement for business cases when delivering the Digital and Information Strategy will be documented within the related BAF – April 2021 <p>Action Owner: Associate Director of Digital</p> <p>Original date of expected completion for all of the above is the 30 April 2021</p>	<p>IG&SSG and IG&SOG ToRs agreed and meetings taking place.</p> <p>Reporting through Activity Tracker to IG&S Steering Groups and to CGC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To 4 March IG&SSG – Tracker & Performance To 10 March CGC – SBAR & Tracker <p>Board Assurance Framework for D&I Strategy Delivery reporting including linked risks provided to CGC via EDG (September 2021, November 2021, and March 2022).</p> <p>Risk Reports including performance analysis and detailed root cause analysis and risk proximity reported to D&I Board and IG&S Steering Group.</p>	 <p>Complete and Validated</p>

Annual Report 2020/21 – B06/22

1. Increased Risk of Harm

- A specific risk should be recorded, delegated to the CGC, to capture the clinical implications of Covid19 on waiting times and the associated impact on patient safety, clinical effectiveness and strategic prioritisation.

The risk should include clear controls and assurance sources looking at reducing avoidable harm caused by delays in diagnoses and treatment and should reflect:

- The key priorities and aims for 2021/22 within the current remobilisation plan.
- Other relevant controls, such as implementation of Royal College of Surgeons guidelines
- A description of controls to address the current pressure on scheduled care as a result of imbalance in demand and capacity; additional pressures due to Covid19; possible pent up demand due to reduction in referral rates.
- Identified requirements to redesign services.

Action Owner: Medical Director

Original date of expected completion for all of the above is the 30 November 2021.

The change to the Quality & Safety BAF was proposed and agreed by CGC at their meeting on 3 November 2021 and the was presented again to CGC at their meeting on 10 March 2022 and the revised risk description is reflected in the version of the BAF presented to CGC on 29 April 2022.

The Quality and Safety BAF Risk description now reflects risk to patients from reprioritisation associated with the pandemic and linked risks include pandemic related risks.



Complete and Validated

Corporate Governance

BAF risks:

Risk 1675 - Strategic Planning – Moderate (12)

- There is a risk that the development and the delivery of the new NHS Fife Population Health and Wellbeing strategy is not adequately supported by the required planning and programme management capacity, capability and governance arrangements.

Risk 1676 – Integration Joint Board –Moderate (12)

- There is a risk that the Fife Integration Scheme does not clearly define operational responsibilities of the Health Board, Council and Integration Joint Board (IJB) resulting in a lack of clarity on ownership for risk management, governance and assurance.

Strategy

The ICE report highlighted positive progress on the plans to develop the Population and Wellbeing Strategy (PWS) and welcomed NHS Fife's intention to have an approved Strategy in place by 31 March 2022. This was delayed by the ongoing impact of Covid19; a revised timetable was approved by Standing Committees and the Board in March 2022. Consequently with a one year Transitional Strategic Plan will be submitted in line with the Scottish Government (SG) deadline of 31 July 2022. A one year financial plan for 2022/23 was approved by the Board and submitted to Scottish Government in March 2022.

The approved timetable details a route map for the development of the medium to long term Population Health and Wellbeing Strategy, with a draft Strategy and associated Delivery plan to be presented to the NHS Fife Board by December 2022. The route map provides key steps and dates, with dates established for Standing Committees and the Board to review and influence the work.

The SGHSCD issued the NHS Recovery plan on 25 August 2021. The recent Audit Scotland report NHS in Scotland 2021 stated that *'The ambitions in the plan will be stretching and difficult to deliver against the competing demands of the pandemic and an increasing number of other policy initiatives. The recovery plan will involve new ways of delivering services and these will take a lot of work. There is not enough detail in the plan to determine whether ambitions can be achieved in the timescales set out.'* The SGHSCD have subsequently issued further guidance reiterating its intention for NHS Boards to deliver the objectives within the NHS Recovery Plan. However, it is clear that the workforce and financial assumptions underlying both the NHS Recovery Plan and the Health and social care: national workforce strategy would require very careful risk assessment, before they could be relied upon in local planning.

Whilst the Board will need to be cognisant of SGHSCD ambitions, its priority must be the production of a realistic, achievable strategy which addresses the needs of the local population post-covid within the parameters of available resources, most particularly financial, digital and workforce. This will almost inevitably involve extremely difficult decisions, which may not fully align with public or SGHSCD expectations.

During the Covid pandemic, there was a necessary shift of focus towards operational priorities, which reflected the extreme risks in those areas as well as an influx of Covid related funding which lessened the immediate financial risk. In future, the risks related to financial sustainability are likely to rise sharply and rapidly, with the acute sector in particular facing very significant financial challenges. Consideration of the changes in culture required to adapt to this change should start now. The implementation of the Financial

Improvement and Sustainability Programme in November 2021 will be a key enabler to securing recurring financial balance and sustainability. In March 2022, the Finance, Performance & Resources Committee (FPRC) were provided an update on the Operational Pressures Escalation Levels (OPEL) process, which aims to manage day-to-day pressures, with clear triggers for action and escalation. We commend this development and note the Scottish Government interest in the overall tool. An update report on how the OPEL process is working in practice would be a useful future assurance report to the FPRC.

Covid19 & Governance

NHS Fife has continued to monitor and adapt arrangements to maintain an appropriate level of governance, whilst taking account of the pressures on management and the need to free operational staff to deal with Covid19.

On 20 May 2020 the Board ratified revised governance arrangements for the Board's Standing Committees whereby meetings were to be undertaken by TEAMS. The command structure which was stood down from 31 March 2021 was reinstated in July 2021 due to resurgence in Covid19 cases.

Given the lifting of Covid19 restrictions during April 2022, NHS Fife successfully tested its first face to face meeting for two years at a Board Development session in April 2022.

Covid19 reporting to Board has continued and covers: Covid19 Vaccination, Test and Protect and Covid19 Testing in Fife.

Assurance Mapping

The Chief Internal Auditor, working with officers from NHS Fife and other client Health Boards, developed a set of Committee Assurance principles, together with a series of questions which would help Standing Committees assess the assurances they receive on risks delegated to them. These were considered and endorsed by the NHS Fife Audit & Risk Committee at its meeting in May 2021.

The Board Secretary is working with Standing Committee Chairs to ensure these are embedded within the Board's formal assurance processes and Internal Audit continue to liaise with management on the application of the principles.

Remobilisation

The draft Remobilisation Plan 4 (RMP4) was considered and approved by the NHS Fife Board in private session on 28 September 2021 prior to submission to the SG, with positive feedback received on 19 November 2021.

An action tracker, outlining key actions and progress on deliverables, has helped support the delivery of the RMP and provided scrutiny of its achievements against target dates. The update to 31 March 2022 was provided to the FPRC on 10 May 2022, with:

- 52 actions completed
- 61 on track
- 20 at risk – require attention
- 12 unlikely to meet target

Actions that are unlikely to be completed are delivery of elective care and diagnostics, and improvements in cancer performance and early diagnosis. Incomplete actions will be carried over into the 2022/23 Annual Delivery Plan.

Risk Management

During 2021/22, the 7 BAFs were reported bi-monthly to standing committees, and

subsequently to the Audit & Risk Committee and the Board. The majority of these BAFs have been updated in year, including updates to reflect Covid19, and have shown positive score changes towards target, albeit Environmental Sustainability and IJB have remained static.

The Risk Management Framework update to the March 2022 NHS Board meeting included the development of the risk profile against the NHS Fife Strategic Priorities/Objectives as follows:

- To improve health and wellbeing
- To improve the quality of health and care services
- To improve staff experience and wellbeing
- To deliver value and sustainability

Various risks were identified under each priority/objective and following feedback further risks have been identified for Climate Change and Health Inequalities.

A risk management improvement programme was approved by the NHS Fife Board in March 2022. A comprehensive update was provided to the May Audit & Risk Committee including aims and required actions.

A Board-wide review of risk reporting is currently underway and, when concluded, will make recommendations for the reporting of relevant risks to the Standing committees. It is likely that stand-alone Board Assurance Frameworks (BAFs) in use at present will be replaced by a refreshed Corporate Risk Register, with sections pertinent to each standing committee. This will help each Committee define and monitor risks relevant to their remit once the process becomes fully established. This should help improve the consideration of risk within SBARs to the Board and Standing Committees, which still requires considerable development.

Supporting the Board Strategic Risks will be a Corporate Risk Register, featuring risks that have the potential to affect the whole organisation, or escalated operational split into: Clinical Quality and Safety, Property and Infrastructure (including Digital and Information), Workforce and Finance. In addition, a Risk Dashboard will be developed to enable oversight of the risk level of corporate risks, provide assurance that adequate controls are in place to proactively manage risks, align to improvement actions contained within the Integrated Performance & Quality Report (IPQR) and integrate with Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and Quality Performance Indicators (QPIs). We also note the intention to refresh the Board Risk Appetite Statement, which should be an important feature of the new system.

Given operational pressures, a Covid19 strategic risk was not included in NHS Fife's extant BAF risk profile. A high level Covid19 risk register is maintained via the Emergency Command structures, which are considered by EDG. At the EDG on 5 May 2022, it was agreed that while some elements of these risks, such as workforce pressures, may remain, they are no longer primarily linked to the pandemic and will now be managed as business as usual, included in the operational risk registers or escalated to the corporate risk register as required.

Performance

NHS Fife has achieved financial breakeven position with non recurring funding of £13.7m received to bridge the financial gap.

The IPQR was presented to each Standing Committee and Board meeting as per each work plan. The IPQR reports on a range of measures covering financial and clinical delivery, with significant challenges highlighted in year.

A review of the IPQR's content and format is currently underway, to address actions from

the Board's Active Governance session and to ensure it remains relevant and clear to Board members.

The IPQR to the May 2022 FPRC provided the latest reported performance for 2021/2022, with data provided to end of March 2022 for Remobilisation Activity and all other targets to February 2022.

Cancer 31-Day Diagnostic Decision to first Treatment (DTT), Inpatient Falls, SABs - HAI and Antenatal are meeting target, with six indicators not achieving target but performing well above the Scotland average: C-Diff Community; 4- Hour Emergency Access; Cancer 62 Day RTT; Patient TTG; New Outpatients; Delayed discharge – Standard Delays.

A further eight areas are neither meeting the target nor the Scotland average: Diagnostics; 18 week RTT; Detect Cancer early; Cancer 62 Day RTT; Delayed Discharge (% bed days lost); Smoking Cessation; CAHMS Waiting Times; Psychological Therapies. Improvement actions to address these areas are included in the IPQR and will take time to embed, and we note that many of these areas are still performing well against the Scottish average.

Integration

The final version of self-evaluation response to the Ministerial Strategic Group (MSG) Integration of Health & Social Care report was submitted by Fife IJB to Scottish Government in May 2019, and detailed areas for further work locally. An update on progress was provided to the Fife IJB Audit & Risk Committee in April 2022, which showed some progress but a number of actions still outstanding. There would be benefit in the NHS Fife Board or a Standing Committee also receiving this report, as the responsibility for implementing actions also lies with the partner bodies, who are reliant on the success of the IJB in a number of key areas.

The NHS Fife Director of Health and Social Care advised the 29 March 2022 Board Meeting that the Integration Scheme (IS) had been formally signed off by Scottish Ministers on 8 March 2022.

Internal Audit has continued to provide advice and highlight governance and assurance aspects of integration and the need for clear lines of accountability and ownership of risk. Internal Audit F05-22 - Strategic Plan is reviewing the process for developing the Fife IJB Strategic Plan. The Fife IJB Strategic Risks were reviewed, updated and presented to the January 2022 meeting of the Fife IJB.

We previously noted that the Integration BAF was significantly out of date and needed to be reviewed. This will be considered as part of the updating of the NHS Fife Risk Management Framework; with the Director of HSCP recommending that the current risk is closed as the Integration Scheme is complete.

Other Governance Areas

General Policies

As reported to the May 2022 FPRC, as at April 2022, 29 (51%) of the 57 General Policies are up to date. 10 (17%) remain beyond their due date and are presently being followed up. Work is underway for 18 (32%) of General Policies, which are either being reviewed or are out for consultation to the General Policies Group. Completion has improved since the last report in November 2021.

Corporate Objectives

During April/May 2022 the Standing Committees endorsed and the Board approved the NHS Fife Corporate Objectives which will inform the development of the Annual Delivery Plan for

2022/23.

Annual Review Letter

The outcome letter from the Scottish Government Annual Review for NHS Fife was received in February 2022 and presented to the March 2022 NHS Fife Board meeting. Overall the feedback received was positive, in particular the organisational actions to the impact of Covid19 and associated activity.

Board and Standing Committee Development Sessions

We commend the timetabling of development sessions for 2022-23 which will provide an understanding in advance of business proposals to Board members and help members to scrutinise papers and understand the topics as they arise at meetings.

Board and Standing Committee Work Plans and Annual Reports

The Audit & Risk Committee will present its annual work plan to each meeting in 2022/23 which will enable the Committee to monitor items that have been completed, carried forward to a future meeting or removed. We recommend that this good practice is extended to all Standing Committees and the Board.

All standing committees' draft annual reports are broadly in line with the FTF Committee Assurance Principles and will be presented to the 16 June 2022 Audit & Risk Committee.


Blueprint for Good Governance and Active Governance

An update was presented to the NHS Fife Board in January 2022 reporting all actions from the initial assessment against the Blueprint for Good Governance as complete.

A Board Development session was held on 2 November 2021 on Active Governance, with a focus on improving how data is presented to the Board and Standing Committees, and how insights from intelligence can be used to assure quality and performance. A plan including a number of actions to improve reporting was agreed. The action plan is due to be completed during the summer of 2022 and then reported to the Board, and will include the recently updated Blue Print for Good Governance.

Code of Corporate Governance

An update to the NHS Fife Code of Corporate Governance was due to be presented to the Audit & Risk Committee in May 2022, but has been delayed to allow the recently issued Model Code of Conduct to be included in the next iteration.

Action Point Reference 1 – MSG Report	
Finding:	
Over the last few years a number of the MSG indicators have progressed but due to Covid there are a number outstanding. An update was provided to the Fife IJB Audit and Risk Committee in April 2022 but no update has been provided to the NHS Fife Board.	
Audit Recommendation:	
NHS Fife should be provided with an update/precis on work being undertaken to foster closer working relationships with colleagues in local authorities and IJBs.	
Assessment of Risk:	
Moderate	 Weaknesses in design or implementation of controls which contribute to risk mitigation. Requires action to avoid exposure to moderate risks to achieving the objectives for area under review.
Management Response/Action:	
A report on the MSG indicators will be presented to the Finance and Performance Committee as a standing committee of NHS Fife Board.	
Action by:	Date of expected completion:
Director of HSCP	September 2022

Clinical Governance

BAF Risk:

Risk 1674 – Quality & Safety – High Risk (15)

- There is a risk that due to failure of clinical governance, performance, and management systems (including information and information systems), NHS Fife may be unable to provide safe, effective, person centred care. Additionally, there is a risk that the effects of the COVID – 19 pandemic, including restricted capacity, reduced elective & non urgent services, and workforce pressures, will impact on the quality & safety of patient care and service delivery

Risk 1677 – Digital & Information – High Risk (15)

- There is a risk that the organisation will fail to recognise and afford the financial investment necessary to deliver its D&I Strategy and current operational lifecycle commitment to enable transformation across Health and Social care to deliver sustainable and integrated services that are safe, secure and compliant with governance frameworks and associated legislation.

Annual Report

The Clinical Governance Committee (CGC) annual report provided a reflective and nuanced conclusion that the Committee had fulfilled its remit and that adequate and effective clinical governance arrangements were in place throughout NHS Fife during the year. The narrative in the report includes detailed commentary on key areas including pandemic related activity, the risk based approach taken to service pause during the pandemic and mitigating action taken to minimise the impact of this on patient treatment and diagnosis. The report also highlighted business considered during the year including the establishment of the Public Health and Wellbeing Committee, Remobilisation Planning, Population Health and Wellbeing Strategy development, Primary Care Improvement Plan, Complaints Backlog and how this is being addressed, New legislative requirements, New Participation and Engagement Advisory Group, Urgent Care Redesign, East Region Formulary development, Independent review of Paediatric Audiology Services, Revised Integration Scheme, Annual Reports from supporting groups and relevant internal audit and external regulatory body reports.

Pandemic & Immunisation

The CGC received updates on different aspects of work related to the pandemic including the Covid19 vaccination programme and the governance around it and the wider vaccination programme, testing and tracing, communication, infection rates, pressures on services and pausing of elective services and outpatient activity.

An external review of all immunisation programmes in NHS Fife subsequently made recommendations to allow NHS Fife to meet the increasing demands and expectations for childhood and adult immunisation programmes. Recommendations were approved by the EDG at their 6 May 2021 meeting and the Fife Immunisation Strategic Framework 2021-24 was considered and supported by the CGC in September 2021 along with the flu and Covid19 booster immunisation programmes.

Clinical and Care Governance Strategy and Framework

Engagement with staff throughout NHS Fife and the Health and Social Care Partnership has

taken place regarding the draft NHS Fife Clinical and Care Governance Strategic Framework which is to be finalised and presented to the Clinical Governance Committee for endorsement at their meeting on 1 July 2022, later than expected due to service pressures associated with the pandemic. Internal Audit have been consulted on the strategy and have provided comment on governance, integration and assurance aspects as well as on the extent to which the strategy meets the requirements of previous internal audit recommendations.

CGC Governance and Assurance

A Public Health and Wellbeing standing committee has been established with responsibilities related to public health and wellbeing strategy development and assurances regarding this and public health initiatives that were previously within the remit of the CGC. Although terms of reference and workplans have been reviewed, the CGC annual assurance report acknowledges the need for further work to avoid unnecessary duplication and ensure clarity over the different roles and responsibilities of standing committees.

The Clinical Governance Oversight Group has merged with the Duty of Candour and Adverse Events Group and has a revised Terms of Reference which include responsibility for provision of an annual assurance report to the CGC. A newly formed Organisational Learning Group reports to the Clinical Governance Oversight Group, with one of its duties being to review the consistency of external and internal reports.

Risk Management

In response to our finding and recommendation in our 2020/21 Internal Audit Annual Report (B06/22 - pt 1) the Quality and Safety BAF risk was updated by the CGC to reflect the increased risk of morbidity/mortality as a result of necessary reprioritisation of service provision associated with the response to the pandemic as follows: *'There is a risk that due to failure of clinical governance, performance and management systems (including information and information systems), NHS Fife may be unable to provide safe, effective, person centred care. Additionally, there is a risk that the effects of the Covid 19 pandemic, including restricted capacity, reduced elective & non urgent services, and workforce pressures, will impact on the quality & safety of patient care and service delivery'*. The Quality and Safety BAF is linked to relevant operational risks including risks 2214 (staffing levels), 1904 (pandemic associated increased morbidity, mortality and reduced capacity), 1907 (Pandemic associated oversight of Care Homes).

External Review

The NHS Fife CGC Annual Assurance Report referred to the reviews undertaken by regulatory bodies which were reported to CGC during the year along with assurance regarding action being taken to address recommendations made in the reports. The following reports were considered by CGC in 2021/22:

- Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS) Healthcare Associated Infection (HAI) inspection - Glenrothes Hospital (7-8 July 2020)
- HIS HAI inspection - Adamson Hospital (28 October 2020)
- HIS Covid focused inspection – Victoria Hospital (May 2021)

In addition the Clinical Governance Oversight Group considered the following additional reports as well as routinely considering the activity tracker including inspection reports. Consultations, reports and publications for awareness and published standards:

- Multi-agency Adult Support and Protection inspection was carried out in Fife between May and August 2021 to provide assurance to the Scottish Government about local partnership areas effective operation of adult support and protection processes and leadership for adult support and protection services

The following reports were referred to in Executive Director Letters but were not reported to the CGC or CGOG:

- Mental Welfare Commission Inspection of Ravenscraig Ward, Whytemans Brae, on 30 September 2021 (update provided to Clinical & Care Governance Committee on 20 April 2022)
- Mental Welfare Commission Inspection of Dunino Ward, Stratheden on 2 November 2021.

Significant Adverse Events

A new post of Lead for Adverse Events has been recruited to and the Lead is co-ordinating the implementation of the Adverse Events improvement plan which includes the review and revision of the Adverse Events Policy. We have been advised that the revised policy will address relevant recommendations in internal audit reports (B08/22, B20/21 & B14/21).

Organisational Duty of Candour

The Annual Duty of Candour (DoC) report covering the 2020/21 financial year was presented to Fife NHS Board at their 29 March 2022 meeting. Neither CGC nor Fife NHS Board have received any information on the application of DoC during 2021/22. The Medical Director has informed us that delays to the adverse event process in its entirety are a known consequence of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on service pressures. Recovery to a state where more timely reporting is heavily dependent on the recovery of the backlog of closure of adverse event reviews. .

Clinical Policies and Procedures

The latest report to the Clinical Governance Oversight Group in April 2022 indicated that 97% of Clinical Policies and Procedures had been reviewed by their scheduled review date.

Health and Safety

The 2021/22 Health & Safety Sub-Committee Annual Report confirmed that there were no significant control weaknesses or issues at the year-end which it considered should be escalated to the Clinical Governance Committee or disclosed in the Board's Governance Statement.

Staff Governance

BAF Risks:

- **Risk 1673 - Workforce sustainability** - There is a risk that failure to ensure the right composition of workforce, with the right skills and competencies will adversely affect the provision of services and quality patient care and impact on organisational capability to implement the new clinical and care models and service delivery set out in the Clinical Strategy and the future population Health & Wellbeing Strategy and the challenges and demands associated with the current COVID-19 pandemic.

Workforce Planning and Risk Assurance

The Staff Governance Committee (SGC) considered the draft Interim Workforce Plan on 20 April 2021 prior to submission to SG by the deadline; with final endorsement by the Committee on 15 June 2021. The Interim Workforce Plan complied with the Scottish Governance guidance and template, and reflected workforce elements of the RMP4. No specific update on delivery of the Workforce Plan for 2021/22 has been provided to the SGC; instead the SGC has been advised of its implementation via updates on the RMP4. Whilst this enables the SGC to be kept informed of the workforce actions taken, it does not provide a conclusion on the success in implementing the Workforce Plan for 2021/22 or of its impact on the key workforce risks facing the Board. Whilst compliant with SG direction and timetables, workforce planning remains an area of high risk which is fundamental to the achievement of NHS Fife's strategic objectives and will be integral to the design and delivery of a sustainable Population Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

The National Workforce Strategy for Health and Social Care in Scotland was published in March 2022, and on 1 April 2022, the SG issued associated guidance which required Boards to submit three year integrated health and social care Workforce Plans by 31 July 2022. The risk profile of the national strategy is not available, but our assessment would be that a number of assumptions within the document are very high risk.

The NHS Fife Workforce Strategy will need to inform and be informed by the overall strategy of the Board. When the new Workforce Strategy is presented to the SGC, there would therefore be considerable benefit in a companion paper which describes how it will be monitored by the SGC, how it fits in with Population Health and Wellbeing Strategy and is connected to the developing IJB Strategic Plan e.g. delegated health services, how the associated risks will be identified and consolidated within the new risk register and how assurance will be provided on progress.

The SGC continued to receive regular assurance reports on the strategic workforce risks and received a detailed review of the Workforce Sustainability BAF in October 2021. The workforce risks remained at high; but with greater consideration to workforce sustainability risks relating to service delivery as set out in the Clinical Strategy and the future Health and Wellbeing Strategy, plus the impact of the Covid19 pandemic.

Internal Audit is completing a review of the processes relating to the development of the 2022-25 Workforce Strategy and Workforce plan, using the Workforce Sustainability BAF as the basis to evaluate the design and operation of the controls to inform the Workforce Plan.

Staff Governance Assurances

Reports, such as the Health and Wellbeing Update, indicate that a lot of work is ongoing to meet the Staff Governance Standards (SGS), but there is no reference within such reports as to the specific strands of the SGS that they are addressing or to the resulting outcomes. The SGC also did not receive comprehensive assurance on compliance with the SGS throughout

the year, with only verbal updates on the action taken to meet the SGS being provided at the September 2021 and March 2022 SGC meetings.

The SGC annual report 2021/22 reported that the committee received individual papers to demonstrate that the five strands of the SGS are being met. More detailed, written assurances are required in future to evidence such a conclusion.

Remuneration Committee (RC)

The RC completed an annual assessment of its performance for 2021/22 at its April 2022 meeting. No issues were identified for improvement, with a training session being arranged to further enhance members understanding of their responsibilities. The RC now keeps an Action List to ensure matters carried forward from each meeting are actioned.

Promoting Health and Wellbeing, Appropriately Trained & Developed, and COVID-19 Response

Regular reports have been made to SGC meetings on the impact of the Covid19 pandemic and provision of assurance on the evolving measures being taken to ensure NHS Fife's workforce is being supported during the pandemic. Our review of the Staff Health and Wellbeing update reports presented to the SGC evidenced a good level of detail and showed that NHS Fife continues to respond to the workforce issues presented by the Covid19 pandemic.

The draft Workforce Plan 2022-25 includes an action to consider succession planning implications for critical roles, including advanced practitioners grades and above. It also includes a workforce profile overview for the different medical specialities and each includes a number of actions to sustain each speciality or professional group e.g. Pharmacy Workforce, including training and development.

The sickness absence statistic for March 2022 was 5.59%, which although still high is showing a downward trend since December 2021, when it was 6.98%. For 2021/22, it is reported that there was a staffing reduction of 1.87% due to Covid19.

Appraisal

TURAS appraisal completion continues to be impacted by the Covid19 pandemic, with a 31% completion rate at the end of March 2022. The Area Partnership Forum, which supports partnership working to improve performance, receives updates on both TURAS appraisal and training arrangements, with the SGC receiving copies of its minutes. Arrangements are proposed to include TURAS appraisal performance reporting as part of the IPQR reporting cycle for 2022/23, with reporting to each SGC meeting.

As at 31 March 2022, Medical Appraisal and Revalidation data shows that of 302 Primary Care doctors, 96.7% were appraised and out of 330 Secondary Care doctors 88.8% were appraised. Internal Audit was informed that although appraisals are slowly getting back to normal, there is still a shortage of appraisers in Secondary Care, which has resulted in some being delayed in addition to the existing pressures resulting from Covid19. An update on the appraisal process has recently been issued by the Scottish Government, confirming that the more flexible approach to appraisal recommended over the previous two years should be continued at present. This includes flexibility regarding the amount of supporting information required.


Staff Governance Annual Monitoring Return

The SG advised all health boards in April 2022 that a different approach was being taken to the review of the monitoring return for 2020/21 in recognition of the continuing pressures faced by Boards. As a consequence no further actions/recommendations are being made by

the SG, based on the 2020/21 monitoring return. Although a more streamlined exercise was completed, NHS Fife was advised that the exercise will still allow the SG to measure the application of the SGS and to identify areas of good practice that will be shared to help drive continuous improvement across all NHSScotland Health Boards. The SGC will be advised of the outcome of this exercise once confirmation of the 2021/22 monitoring return format is received from the SG.

Whistleblowing

The SGC and NHS Fife Board were previously advised of the launch of the National Whistleblowing Standards from 1 April 2021 and during 2021/22 it has received updates on how the new standards were being rolled out, including Quarterly Reports detailing the number of concerns raised. Consideration is still being given to the level of detail provided to the SGC to keep it informed on the action taken to address concerns raised. A Whistleblowing Annual Report for 2021/22 will be presented to the September 2022 SGC meeting and thereafter to NHS Fife Board.

Action Point Reference 2: Staff Governance Assurances	
Finding:	
<p>Reports provided to the SGC detailing the actions taken to meet the SGS do not specify which strand they are addressing. In addition, the SGC also did not receive comprehensive assurance on compliance with the SGSs throughout the year, with only verbal updates on the action taken to meet the SGSs being provided at the September 2021 and March 2022 SGC meetings.</p> <p>The SGC annual report 2021/22 reported that the committee received individual papers to demonstrate that the five strands of the SGSs are being met. More detailed, written assurances are required in future to evidence such a conclusion.</p>	
Audit Recommendation:	
<p>To enable the SGC to fully conclude that the SGSs are being met, written reports indicating how ongoing workstream and other activity meets the appropriate SGS(s) should be presented to it in accordance with its Workplan. Any related reports, such as the Health and Wellbeing Update, should also state which strands they provide assurance on and where possible report on the impact as well as the implementation of any actions taken.</p>	
Assessment of Risk:	
<p>Moderate</p>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <p>Weaknesses in design or implementation of controls which contribute to risk mitigation.</p> <p>Requires action to avoid exposure to moderate risks to achieving the objectives for area under review.</p> </div>
Management Response/Action:	
<p>Work is already underway to respond to this assessment and recommendations</p> <p>In future all reports to Staff Governance Committee will, where appropriate, include an explicit reference to the SGS(s) the paper meets.</p>	
Action by:	Date of expected completion:
<p>Director of Workforce, with specific action taken by the authors of papers to SGC</p>	<p>November 2022</p>

Financial Governance

BAF Risk:

Risk 1671 – Financial Sustainability – Moderate Risk (9)

- There is a risk that the funding required to deliver the current and anticipated future service models, particularly in the context of the COVID 19 pandemic, will not match costs incurred.
- There is a risk that the organisation may not fully identify the level of savings required to achieve recurring financial balance.
- Thereafter there is a risk that failure to implement, monitor and review an effective financial planning, management and performance framework would result in the Board being unable to deliver on its required financial targets.

Risk 1672 – Environmental sustainability – High Risk (20)

- There is a risk that Environmental & Sustainability legislation is breached which impacts negatively on the safety and health of patients, staff and the public and the organisation's reputation

Financial Performance

The draft financial outturn position to 31 March 2022, subject to external audit review, was:

- A £0.380 million under spend on the core Revenue Resource Limit (RRL) of £920.02 million
- A break-even position against the core Capital Resources Limit (CRL) of £32.389 million
- 2021/22 savings delivered of £9.618 million, of which £5.779 million (60%) was recurring,

Total additional Covid19 funding of £95.189m was received from SG in 2021/22. Board Directed Services accounted for £36.464m of the Covid19 costs, and the balance of £58.725m was allocated to the HSCP.

The draft year-end figures for the Health and Social Care Partnership were breakeven for Health delegated, a £1.690m under spend for Social Care with the Fife IJB having a reserve balance of £78.843m.

Financial reporting throughout the year to the FPRC and Board remained consistent and the position was clearly presented, along with the impact of Covid19. Financial forecasts during the year provided an accurate outcome of the year-end position.

Efficiency Savings

The 2021/22 financial plan reflected an overall savings target of £21.7m and assumed £8m was achievable in-year with £4m on a recurring basis and £4m on a nonrecurring basis. Throughout 2021-22 the savings shortfall of £13.7m, as identified in the financial plan, remained a risk to financial balance and Scottish Government (SG) assistance was required. The SG required NHS Fife to deliver a series of actions prior to providing £13.7m to enable NHS Fife to break even for 2021-22.

Significant financial challenges remain as NHS Fife emerges from emergency footing and the Financial Improvement and Sustainability Programme (FISP) will require to ensure there is the required capacity to deliver substantial cost reduction to achieve financial balance in 2022-23 and beyond. The FISP has now been established and its remit endorsed at the January 2022 FPRC. The programme aims to develop and agree productive opportunities and savings targets for 2022/23 and plans for the more medium-term. The Programme will

report directly into the Portfolio Board with governance reporting in place to other Standing Committees and the Board.

Financial Planning 2022/23 and Covid Funding

The Strategic financial plan 2022/23 was approved by the Board on 28 March 2022. This identified a projected budget gap for 2022/23 of £24.1m with plans for this to be mitigated in part through a range of cost improvement plans and a significant capital to revenue transfer. The forecast financial position after the application of these proposed actions is a deficit of £10.4m. A 3-year medium-term plan is being developed to identify a range of cost improvement activity to ensure recurring financial balance at the end of that 3 year period. NHS Fife remain within 0.8% from the full NRAC share.

The Strategic Financial Plan highlighted the risk that Covid19 funding would not match additional costs, but did include provision for Covid consequentials. Subsequently, the SG have advised that *“the UK Government has indicated that in 2022-23 there will be no further specific consequentials to meet the ongoing cost pressures with managing Covid19.”*

This guidance was highlighted in a paper to the May FP&R on the budgetary process. However, the paper also stated that *‘The financial plan does not assume the continuation of SG funding for Covid19 costs’*, which is not necessarily consistent with the information presented in the March budget. The Director of Finance & Strategy has advised Internal Audit that *“the inconsistency arose due to the timing of the recent notification from Scottish Government that there would be no further Covid consequentials, prior to that i.e., in March 2022 the assumption all Boards had made was that Covid consequentials would continue into 2022/23, albeit at a reduced rate. The IJB Covid reserve is earmarked to cover health delegated budget costs which include acute set aside and therefore that aspect of Covid cost will be funded from that source. The Scottish Government also advised on 1 June 2022 that an additional £7.5m for health board retained acute Covid costs will be allocated.”*

Now that this risk has crystallised, the financial impact on NHS Fife budgets for 2022/23 is being fully quantified, as it may lead to an increase in the year-end deficit which will generate the need for even more savings in future years. This aspect of financial planning is currently being reviewed and will be reported to the FPRC and the Board by the end of Quarter 1.

We have been informed that the current Financial Sustainability BAF will be split into two new corporate risks. One will focus on in year delivery of the current financial plan and the second will consider the wider delivery of the 3 year financial plan. This approach should provide a more detailed and focussed management of financial risks as part of the updating of the NHS Fife Risk Framework. The Financial Plan did list a number of constituent risks to financial balance, not all of which were reflected in the BAF; these should be assigned to the relevant strategic financial risk in future where that is deemed appropriate.

Capital Planning and Asset Management

The Five Year Capital Plan 2022/23 was endorsed at the March 2022 FPRC and approved at the NHS Fife Board meeting.

The November 2021 FPRC received the Property and Asset Management Strategy (PAMS) report for the year to 31 March 2021, which is not mandatory but good practice. The PAMS itself was largely retrospective but emphasised the need for a revised NHS Fife Property & Asset Management Strategy to support the development and deliver the objectives of the future Health & Wellbeing Strategy.

Within the 2021/22 ICE report we highlighted the ambition for an NHS Fife PAMS Implementation Action Plan to be developed for 2021/22 and onwards, which will include

actions and outcomes. The development of this plan will be included as part of the process to develop the 2022 PAMS.

The PAMS and Capital Programme will be a vital enabler of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy. Internal Audit previously highlighted the absence of a BAF or operational risk for the Capital Programme and Property Strategy and is pleased to note that the intention is to develop a Property Corporate Risk.

The FPRC receive regular updates on current major capital projects. The Fife Elective Orthopaedic Centre (FEOC) Project is on track and due for completion in October 2022 and plans to be operational in January 2023, with progress regularly reported to the FPRC. Updates to the FPRC highlight the need for an additional 38.5WTE staff above the numbers originally envisaged to allow the FEOC to be fully operational by end of 2022. The reason for this increase was fully reviewed with the Scottish Government who approved additional Scottish Government funding to cover it.

BAF – Financial Sustainability – Moderate Risk

The Financial Sustainability BAF, as reported to the FPRC during 2021/22, recognises the ongoing financial challenges facing the Board, in particular Covid19 funding and savings gaps. The risk score has reduced in year with the confirmation of non repayable funding support from the SG. The BAF risk remains as Moderate, reflecting the underlying financial gap going into 2022/23. We would expect the absence of funding for net additional costs for Covid 19 to be reflected in the risk score.

We note the future ambition that the Financial Sustainability BAF would be split with one part focusing on financial performance and the other would be a risk on financial improvement and sustainability for the medium-term. This approach will allow for clearer linkages to strategy and savings programme.

BAF – Environmental Sustainability – High Risk and Environmental Reporting

A paper was presented to the September 2021 FPRC detailing NHS Fife's ambition to improve the energy efficiency of its buildings, as part of the health sector's drive towards 'net zero carbon' and with funding available from the SG as part of the Low Carbon Infrastructure Programme.

A Policy For NHS Scotland on the Climate Emergency and Sustainable Development - DL (2021) 38, was issued on 10 November 2021, setting out mandatory requirements with immediate effect. A briefing paper for the DL was taken to the Board and Public Health and Wellbeing Committee in May 2022. The DL requirements will almost certainly impact on all NHS Fife Board decision making.

The extant BAF has not materially changed during 2021/22 as the major risk is contingent on the delivery of the Fife Elective Orthopaedic Centre (FEOC) to remove inpatients from the tower block at the Victoria Hospital. As noted above, the Director of Property & Asset Management will develop an appropriate corporate risk including the impact of the net-zero requirement.

Best Value

The draft FPRC Annual Report was presented to the FPRC in May 2022. The report concludes on the NHS Fife Best Value arrangements and reflects on the introduction of both the SPRA and FISP which overall "*facilitates a more effective triangulation of workforce, operational and financial planning*" to supporting the delivery of best value across its resource allocations. The FPRC Annual Report also considered the achievement of Best Value characteristic.

Action Point Reference 3: NHS Fife PAMS Implementation Action Plan

Finding:

The ICE highlighted the ambition for an NHS Fife PAMS Implementation Action Plan to be developed for 2021/22 and onwards, to include actions and outcomes and be used by the Capital Groups to assess progress in achieving PAMS outcomes and objectives.

We have been informed by management this is not an actual document, but is a 'living plan' that is evidenced by discussions at various Capital Groups.

Audit Recommendation:

The Implementation Plan for delivering the PAMS should be properly documented, approved and monitored to ensure the delivery of actions and outcomes and provide assurance to the Board that the PAMS is being delivered.

Assessment of Risk:

Moderate



Weaknesses in design or implementation of controls which contribute to risk mitigation.

Requires action to avoid exposure to moderate risks to achieving the objectives for area under review.

Management Response/Action:

An Implementation Action Plan will be developed as part of the 2022 PAMS.

Action by:

Date of expected completion:

Director of Property & Asset Management

30 November 2022

Information Governance

BAF Risk:

Risk 1677 – Digital & Information – High Risk (15)

- There is a risk that the organisation will fail to recognise and afford the financial investment necessary to deliver its D&I Strategy and current operational lifecycle commitment to enable transformation across Health and Social care to deliver sustainable and integrated services that are safe, secure and compliant with governance frameworks and associated legislation.

Governance Arrangements and Assurance Reporting

Reporting to the Digital and Information Group has been consistent throughout the year; both groups provided update reports to the Clinical Governance Committee during the year and Annual Assurance Reports/Statements at year-end.

In 2021/22 the format of reporting to the Information Governance and Security Steering Group improved and is now standardised with an Activity Tracker and Assessment against key measures now being provided to each meeting. Improvements have also been made to the quality and availability of data for the key measures report, albeit data is not yet available for some measures such as training/education and records management.

We commend the work of the Director of Finance and Strategy, Medical Director and Associate Director of Digital and Information in driving and supporting the considerable improvements made to assurance reporting, particularly to IG&SSG.

The IG&S Operational Group has not met as often as intended in 2021/22 due to service pressures and staffing resource issues in the IG&S Team and as a result the relationship between the Operational Group and the Steering Group is not yet fully resolved.

The improvements in the assurance reporting and governance arrangements, and scheduling of reporting throughout 2022/23 to the CGC in its annual workplan, have completed recommendations made in previous internal audit reports (B08/21, B28/21 & B08/22).

Digital and Information Strategy

Updates on the NHS Fife Digital and Information Strategy 2019-2024 were provided to the September 2021 and March 2022 Clinical Governance Committee meetings. The latest update recognised that *'the Digital strategy would have benefited from a resourcing and financial assessment to achieve the stated ambitions'* and *'noted the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic response and the requirement to align activities to the evolving risk profile within the Digital and Information domains'*. The CGC have been informed of a new prioritisation process launched in February 2022 in order to align the digital deliverables to their operational and strategic requirements and agree a prioritised workplan consistent with available resources, including the use of a revised prioritisation matrix to balance the adoption of existing digital capabilities with the implementation of new ones.

Whilst resources have increased, and there is now a clearer view of how the remaining two years of the Digital and Information Strategy will be delivered, it is clear that elements of the strategy will not be delivered by the end date of 31 March 2024. The CGC should therefore be notified of these changes, and informed of the impact that this will have on the strategic objectives of the Board.

Risk Management

The format of risk reports presented to IG&SSG and D&I Board have improved throughout 2021/22 and all risks were reviewed to ensure the scores reflected the impact of the pandemic. The new format includes graphical representation to highlight risks with improved or deteriorating ratings and provides detailed analysis on the highest ranked risks which provided the Group with additional understanding of the risk and allowed them to provide assurance on whether management actions would mitigate the risk within a suitable timescale.

The latest Digital and Information BAF presented to CGC on 29 April 2022 highlighted the increased threat of cyber attack due to the war in Ukraine.

External Review

The IG&SSG received detailed update on the NIS Audit throughout the year, with the in March 2022 estimating current compliance of 73% with additional assurance that evidence to demonstrate implementation of previous recommendations was underway, ahead of the review audit to be undertaken by the Competent Authority in April 2022. The review audit was completed for 2022 and the report received detailing an overall compliance status of 76%, an increase from 69% achieved in 2021.

IG&SSG await final feedback from the Keeper of the National Records of Scotland on NHS Fife's draft Records Management Plan submitted in February 2021.

The Information Commissioners Office (ICO) will be auditing Boards in NHS Scotland against its accountability framework; NHS Fife is due late summer 2022. In preparation, a self assessment was presented to CGC on 10 March 2022 which considered the 343 activities associated with the 10 categories and 77 expectations in the framework and concluded that:

- 84 activities had yet to start
- 146 activities had been started but were not complete
- 113 activities had been completed and can be evidenced as such.

Information Governance Incidents

Through the year, 14 incidents were reported to the ICO, an increase of 3 on the previous year. Of the 14, 9 (64%) were reported within the 72-hour requirement. Of the 14 incidents, 13 have been confirmed not to require any further follow up and 1 item rejected as it was deemed to not meet the criteria. At present there is no requirement for these to be disclosed in the Board's annual Governance Statement.

ITIL Processes

In response to internal audit B23-21 – ITIL Processes, the D&I Board supported the introduction of Information Technology Infrastructure Library (ITIL) Version 4 to support strategic planning, design, build activities and the efficient running of operations and service management to further enhance the availability of systems and digital capability.

Action Point Reference 4: Delivery of D&I Strategy 2019/24**Finding:**

Whilst resources have increased, and there is now a clearer view of how the remaining two years of the Digital and Information Strategy will be delivered, it is clear that elements of the strategy will not be delivered by the end date of 31 March 2024.

Audit Recommendation:

The CGC should be notified in 2022/23 of any elements of the D&I Strategy that will not be delivered by 31 March 2024 and the impact that this will have on the strategic objectives of the Board.

Assessment of Risk:

Moderate



Weaknesses in design or implementation of controls which contribute to risk mitigation.

Requires action to avoid exposure to moderate risks to achieving the objectives for area under review.

Management Response/Action:

The element of digital strategy that will not be delivered in full or in part will be identified to the CGC. The initial identification will take place for the 1 July meeting; with the fuller impact assessment being presented as part of the strategy update report on 13 January 2023, as per the Committee's work plan.

This will be evidenced through the committee's minutes.

Action by:**Date of expected completion:**

Associate Director of Digital & Information





March 2023

Key Performance Indicators – Performance against Service Specification

	Planning	Target	2021/22	2020/21
1	Strategic/Annual Plan presented to Audit & Risk Committee by 30 June.	Yes	Draft presented May 2022	No (July 21)
2	Annual Internal Audit Report presented to Audit & Risk Committee by June	Yes	Presented Audit & Risk Committee – June 2022	No
3	Audit assignment plans for planned audits issued to the responsible Director at least 2 weeks before commencement of audit	75%	100%	79%
Effectiveness				
4	Draft reports issued by target date	75%	67%	59%
5	Responses received from client within timescale defined in reporting protocol	75%	100%	68%
6	Final reports presented to target Audit & Risk Committee	75%	67%	47%
7	Number of days delivered against plan	100% at year-end	67%	93%
8	Number of audits delivered to planned number of days (within 10%)	75%	91%	77%
9	Skill mix	50%	80%	77%
10	Staff provision by category	As per SSA/Spec	Pie chart	
Effectiveness				
11	Client satisfaction surveys	Average score of 3.5	Bar chart	

Assessment of Risk

To assist management in assessing each audit finding and recommendation, we have assessed the risk of each of the weaknesses identified and categorised each finding according to the following criteria:

Fundamental		Non Compliance with key controls or evidence of material loss or error. Action is imperative to ensure that the objectives for the area under review are met.	None
Significant		Weaknesses in design or implementation of key controls i.e. those which individually reduce the risk scores. Requires action to avoid exposure to significant risks to achieving the objectives for area under review.	None
Moderate		Weaknesses in design or implementation of controls which contribute to risk mitigation. Requires action to avoid exposure to moderate risks to achieving the objectives for area under review.	Four (Ref 1,2,3,4)
Merits attention		There are generally areas of good practice. Action may be advised to enhance control or improve operational efficiency.	None