

**ALCOHOL/DRUG DEPENDENCY SERVICES CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW**

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**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 In early 2018 Audit Scotland received correspondence from member(s) of the public raising queries about the arrangements for procurement, performance monitoring and governance relating to Argyll & Bute Alcohol and Drug Partnership (ADP).
- 1.2 Audit Scotland reviewed the correspondence and met with Argyll and Bute Council's (the Council) Chief Internal Auditor (CIA) to discuss the content. It was agreed that the Council's internal audit department would conduct a review and Audit Scotland would place reliance on Internal Audit's work and conclusions.
- 1.3 This report presents the final report for the Committee's consideration.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 Audit and Scrutiny Committee to review and endorse the report.

**3. DETAIL**

- 3.1 In early 2018 Audit Scotland received correspondence from member(s) of the public raising queries about the arrangements for procurement, performance monitoring and governance relating to Argyll & Bute Alcohol and Drug Partnership (ADP): In particular:
  - Governance in relation to the operation and decision making of the ADP
  - Contract/Service Level Agreement (SLA) management in relation to Addaction Scotland (Addaction) and Argyll and Bute Addictions Team (ABAT) including any contract extensions
  - Procurement and extension of Children 1st contracts.
- 3.2 Audit Scotland reviewed the correspondence and met with Argyll and Bute Council's (the Council) Chief Internal Auditor (CIA) to discuss the content. It was agreed that the Council's internal audit department would conduct a review and Audit Scotland would place reliance on Internal Audit's work and conclusions.
- 3.3 Audit Scotland met with the correspondent(s) to discuss their concerns however, at the request of the correspondents, Audit Scotland have maintained their anonymity. The CIA has not seen the correspondence sent to Audit Scotland. The scope and objectives of this review were informed by the discussion between the CIA and Audit Scotland and e-mail sent to the CIA by Audit Scotland on 31 May 2018 which sets out the 'Heads of the Correspondence' as summarised by Audit Scotland. These terms of reference was agreed with Audit Scotland prior to the fieldwork commencing.

- 3.4 The scope of the audit was to consider and provide an evidence based response to the queries raised by the correspondent(s) as summarised by Audit Scotland. The objectives of the audit were restricted to gathering sufficient audit evidence to form a conclusion on these queries. It does not constitute a wider review of the subject matters of procurement, performance monitoring and governance nor is it a detailed audit of the ADP, Addaction, ABAT or Children 1st. Any audit judgements on compliance with policy and/or procedure were made taking cognisance of the relevant policy and/or procedure at the time the event being queried took place. The audit report provides a response to each of the queries grouped by the associated 'body.' It also, where applicable, provides an audit conclusion on the appropriateness of the evidenced processes and procedures.
- 3.5 Overall the review has been graded as providing substantial assurance meaning the CIA's judgement is that internal control, governance and the management of risk is sound. However, there are some areas of weakness which put some system objectives at risk and specific elements of residual risk that are slightly above an acceptable level and need to be addressed within a reasonable timescale. The recommendations are summarised in paragraph 13 of the report with the action plan at appendix 1 of the report providing greater detail.
- 3.5 Subject to the Audit & Scrutiny Committee's endorsement the report will be made available to the ADP Committee for their consideration.

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

- 4.1 The appropriate Council officers and NHS officers have accepted the contents of the report and agreed responses and timescales in the associated action plan.

#### **5. IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Policy - None  
5.2 Financial -None  
5.3 Legal -None  
5.4 HR - None  
5.5 Equalities - None  
5.6 Risk – None  
5.7 Customer Service - None

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25 September 2018**

#### **For further information contact:**

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#### **APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – Alcohol/Drug Dependency Services Correspondence Review