

Audit and Scrutiny Committee
27 November 2019

IRVINE, 27 November 2019 - At a Special Meeting of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 1.30 p.m.

Present

Marie Burns, Margaret George, Joy Brahim, Alan Hill, Tom Marshall, Donald Reid and John Sweeney.

In Attendance

C. Hatton, Chief Executive; L. Friel, Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support); S. Brown, Director and C. Cameron, Chief Finance and Transformation Officer (Health and Social Care Partnership), T. Bowers, Head of Service (Mental Health) and A. Sutherland, Head of Children, Families and Criminal Justice (North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership) and A. Little, Committee Services Officer (Chief Executive's Service).

Chair

Councillor Burns in the Chair.

1. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest by Members in terms of Standing Order 10 and Section 5 of the Code of Conduct for Councillors.

3. North Ayrshire Integrated Joint Board Financial Position

Submitted report by Caroline Whyte, Chief Finance and Transformation Officer on the financial position of the North Ayrshire Integrated Joint Board and plans to mitigate the current projected overspend.

The budget monitoring report and appendices for Period 6, which were presented to the IJB on 21 November 2019, were attached as Appendix 1 to the report. Appendix 2 provided Supplementary Demand Pressure Information and the Integration Authorities financial performance for Quarter 1 of financial year 2019/20 was outlined at Appendix 3. Audit Scotland's report on NHS in Scotland 2019 was provided at Appendix 4. Appendix 5 presented the Scottish Government's Medium-Term Health and Social Care Financial Framework (October 2018) report. The Scottish Parliament's Health and Sport Committee's report – Looking ahead to the Scottish Government – Health Budget 2020-21 (October 2019) was attached at Appendix 6. Appendix 7 outlined the Health and Social Care Partnership "thinking differently doing better" Engagement Resources.

The Committee received a presentation on the North Ayrshire Integration Joint Board 2019/20 budget and Transformation Update, which provided information on:-

- The context of the Partnership's financial position noting that the HSCP do not anticipate being able to repay any of its debt to the Council in 2019/20;

- The national position for IJBs in respect of their quarter 1 projected outturns;
- North Ayrshire 65+ and older age groups population census information, including estimates and continuity projections;
- Budget pressures and the net investment position;
- Previous approved savings plans, delivered savings and the shortfall in savings achieved;
- 2019/20 savings that included targeted, achieved and remaining savings;
- Key areas for 2019/20 savings;
- Transformation plans;
- Older people managed waiting lists;
- The Recovery Plan;
- Budget risks and risks and challenges; and
- Features supporting health and social care integration.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to:-

- A review of Learning Disabilities adult community packages that is being undertaken by a dedicated review team, co-ordinated on a prioritised list to ensure all reviews are up to date and appropriate and equitable levels of care are being provided;
- Adult Community support framework which will present additional opportunities for reviews and payment only for the actual hours of care delivered;
- The Improvement Plan that has more checks and balances in place to ensure the projections are more accurate and figures are more current;
- Projections for Care Home placements and Children's Residential Placements that would have been met if the demands had not increased;
- Various demands that cannot be forecast, such as 6 children from the same family requiring foster care and unplanned secure and remands placements as well as decisions made by the Children's Panel;
- Thinking Differently, Doing Better that is all about people and making people's experience of health and social care services in North Ayrshire better;
- The use of community facilities and social supports to assist people to remain at home and part of their community, whilst reducing the need for services such as day care;
- Supported Accommodation models supported by technology that will reduce 24-hour care for adults in the community;
- Work with colleagues in Education and Housing to support young people to remain in school and at home and to bring back to their communities young people who have been in residential placements;
- Four Scottish IJBs that are underspent and work that is planned to learn lessons from their achievements, including a visit that is planned to Angus Council;
- A range of factors such as differing financial settlements, service costs and reserve levels that make comparisons between Scottish IJBs complex
- The Primary Care Plan that will join up services and improve hospital aftercare;
- Weekly cross-service progress meeting that are held to track progress and ensure progress is achieved within the required timescales and the Recovery Plan that provides a target for Managers to achieve;

- A whole system approach, including new models of working that will maximise the capacity of teams, coupled with a change in how we deliver services that takes time to embed and realise savings and
- Anticipation that main pressure for 2020/21 will centre around learning disability and care at home.

The Committee commented on the significant progress by other Council services in achieving their planned savings. Any overspend by the Health and Social Care Partnership creates a financial risk to the Council, as one of the key funding partners.

The Committee agreed to (a) note the report; and (b) continue to receive IJB financial monitoring reports to each meeting of the Committee, including progress on delivery of savings and the Recovery Plan with further information on the anticipated position at the start of 2020/21.

The meeting ended at 3.05 p.m.