NHS
Lancashire and South Cumbria
Integrated Care Board

Integrated Care Board

Date of meeting	25 September 2025
Title of paper	Audit Committee Escalation and Assurance Reports
Presented by	Jim Birrell, Audit Committee Chair
Author	Board Secretary and Committee Officers
Agenda item	17
Confidential	No

Executive summary

This report highlights key matters, issues, and risks discussed at ICB Audit Committee meeting held since the last report to the Board on 24 July 2025 to alert, advise and assure the Board.

The summary report also highlights any issues, items referred or escalated to other committees or to the Board.

Minutes approved by the committee to date are presented to the Board to provide assurance that they have met in accordance with their terms of reference and to advise the Board of business transacted at their meetings.

Recommendations

The Board is asked to:

- Note the Alert, Advise and Assure within each committee report and approve any recommendations as listed
- Note the summary of items or issues referred to other committees of the Board over the reporting period, as appropriate
- Note the ratified minutes of the committee meetings.

Which Strategic Objective/s does the report relate to:		**Tick**
SO1	Improve quality, including safety, clinical outcomes, and patient experience	✓
SO2	To equalise opportunities and clinical outcomes across the area	✓
SO3	Make working in Lancashire and South Cumbria an attractive and desirable option for existing and potential employees	✓
SO4	Meet financial targets and deliver improved productivity	✓
SO5	Meet national and locally determined performance standards and targets	✓
SO6	To develop and implement ambitious, deliverable strategies	✓

Implications

	Yes	**No**	**N/A**	**Comments**
Associated risks		✓		
Are associated risks detailed on the ICB Risk Register?			✓	
Financial Implications			✓	

Where paper has been discussed (list other committees/forums that have discussed this paper)

Meeting	**Date**	**Outcomes**
Audit Committee	During July 2025	To provide the Board of committee business during this period.

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Conflicts of interest associated with this report				
Not applicable.				

Impact assessments				
	Yes	**No**	**N/A**	**Comments**
Quality impact assessment completed			✓	
Equality impact assessment completed			✓	
Data privacy impact assessment completed			✓	

Report authorised by:	ICB Committee Chair

Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board

Integrated Care Board – 25 September 2025

Audit Committee Escalation and Assurance Report

1. Introduction

1.1 This report highlights key matters, issues, and risks discussed at ICB Audit Committee held since the last report to the Board on 24 July 2025 to alert, advise and assure the Board.

1.2 The summary report also highlights any issues, items referred or escalated to other committees or to the Board.

1.3 Minutes approved by the committee to date are presented to the Board to provide assurance that they have met in accordance with their terms of reference and to advise the Board of business transacted at their meetings.

2. Audit Committee Report and Approved Minutes

Date: 23 July 2025		**Chair: Jim Birrell**
Key Items Discussed		
Item	**Issue**	**Action**
Alert		
New ICB financial system	A new financial management system is currently scheduled for implementation on 1.10.25. The finance team is working hard to ensure that the process goes smoothly but there may be some short-term issues during the transition period.	Planned timetable and potential implications will be communicated when details are finalised
Advise		
Completed internal audit reviews	Two completed audits and one assurance report were considered by the Committee – • **Continuing Healthcare** – limited assurance • **Patient Safety Incident Response Framework** – moderate assurance • **Data Security & Protection Toolkit, (DSPT)** - feedback provided to IG Team	Board to note
All Age Continuing Care, (AACC), Turnaround Plan	A presentation was made in respect of the AACC Turnaround Plan. Encouraging progress was reported although significant work is still	Committee to review progress at future meetings; Committee Chairs to discuss oversight arrangements

	required to deliver the Plan. It was agreed that the Chairs of the Quality & Outcomes, Finance & Contracting and Audit Committees would liaise around their respective oversight roles and responsibilities.	
DSPT June 2025 Submission	The June 2025 DSPT self-assessment has been submitted. Feedback will be provided by the NHSE, following which an improvement plan will be produced to address any areas of concern.	Board to note; Audit committee to consider feedback from NHSE in due course
Failure To Prevent Fraud	A new corporate criminal offence of *Failure to Prevent Fraud* comes into effect on 1.9.25. From that date, organisations will have a responsibility to prevent an associated person from committing a fraud offence on their behalf. MIAA's Anti-Fraud Team will be conducting a gap analysis of the ICB's existing controls against the requirements of the new legislation	Disseminate information on new legislation.
Assure		
VAT Recovery from suppliers of care services	It does not appear that the recent change in VAT rules relating to suppliers of care services will have a financial impact on services commissioned by an ICB.	No action required
Freedom To Speak Up	The Committee was pleased to learn that the FTSU system appears to be working effectively, although it was noted that there is ongoing discussion regarding the capacity of the FTSU Guardians.	Board to note

- **Appendix A** – Approved minutes of the Extraordinary LSC ICB Audit Committee meeting held on 16 June 2025: **Item 17 Appx A - Approved - ICB Extraordinary Audit Committee Minutes - 16 June 2025 v2.0.pdf**

3. Summary of items or issues referred to other committees or the Board over the reporting period.

Committee	Item or Issue	Referred to
N/A		

4. Conclusion

4.1 The committee has conducted their business in line with their terms of reference and associated business plans.

5. Recommendations

5.1 The Board is requested to:

- Note the Alert, Advise and Assure within the committee report and approve any recommendations as listed.
- Note the summary of items or issues referred to other committees of the Board over the reporting period, as appropriate
- Note the ratified minutes of the committee meetings.

Committee Chair
September 2025