

Meeting:	NHS Shetland Board Meeting
Date:	18 th August 2020
Committee report relates to:	Audit Committee – Escalation Report
Date of Committee:	10/08/20
Author / Job Title:	Lincoln Carroll (Audit Chair)

Highlight Summary:

Concerns were raised by Internal Auditors Scott Moncrieff about the performance of the Adult Mental Health Service, highlighted at the June meeting of the committee. An improvement plan was requested for 10th August, however that plan did not offer adequate assurance to the committee. Another improvement plan has been requested for presentation at the September meeting. A significant risk is with regard to the Psychological Therapy Service (PTS) waiting times.

Any issues of concern for escalation to Board:

Following the meeting via Microsoft Teams by the NHS Shetland Audit Committee on Monday 10th August it has been agreed that the Committee should escalate our concerns about the Adult Mental Health Service being provided by NHS Shetland to the NHS Shetland Board for the meeting on Tuesday 18th August.

Concerns about the practice of the Adult Mental Health Services in Shetland were highlighted to the committee by internal auditors Scott Moncrieff through the internal audit process. There were a number of risks identified, however the most concerning was with regard to the performance of the PTS service.

Due to those concerns, the Manager of the Adult Mental Health Service was asked to attend the virtual Audit meeting on 8th June to inform the committee of remedial action. As the Manager was unable to attend, an improvement plan and attendance by the Manager was requested for the next meeting on 10th August, which did occur. However the Committee was not adequately assured by the improvement plan presented and felt that it did not fully address the risks identified by the Internal Auditors. It was agreed by members that there needed to be significant improvement in the plan for there to be adequate assurance, this plan has been requested (with support from internal auditors) by the committee for the next Audit committee meeting on 29th September.

The significant risk about the performance of the PTS service was further highlighted by the external auditors Deloitte (included in the Annual Accounts boardpack. Due to those concerns, there is involvement from the Scottish Government. The Audit Committee cannot offer adequate assurance to the Board regarding the Adult Mental Health service, especially in relation to the PTS service.

The Audit Committee of NHS Shetland would therefore ask that the NHS Shetland Board place Adult Mental Health Services on the NHS Shetland Corporate Risk Register.