

Reference: 3175A2022

Date issued: October 2022

Audit Wales Work Programme and Timetable – Bridgend County Borough Council

Quarterly Update: 30 September 2022

Annual Audit Summary

Description	Timetable	Status
A report summarising completed audit work since the last Annual Audit Summary, which was issued in January 2022	January 2023	Drafting

Financial Audit work

Description	Scope	Timetable	Status
Audit of the Council's 2020-21 Grants and Returns	Audit of five claims as required by the terms and conditions of the grants.	In line with the individual deadlines for each grant claim.	Work now completed.
Audit of the Council's 2021-22 statement of accounts	To confirm whether the statement of accounts provide a true and fair view.	Audit Opinion by 30 November 2022	The final audit work is ongoing.

Description	Scope	Timetable	Status
Audit of the 2021-22 Returns for Porthcawl Harbour Authority and Coychurch Crematorium Joint Committee	To confirm that the returns have been completed correctly.	Audit Opinion by 30 September 2022	Work completed and returns certified on 26 th September 2022.
Audit of the Council's 2021-22 Grants and Returns	Audit of five claims as required by the terms and conditions of the grants.	In line with the individual deadlines for each grant claim.	Audit work to commence following completion of main accounts work over the autumn.

Performance Audit work

2022-23 Performance audit work	Scope	Timetable	Status
Assurance and Risk Assessment (ARA)	<p>Project to identify the level of audit assurance and/or where further audit work may be required in future years in relation to risks to the Council putting in place proper arrangements to secure value for money in the use of resources and acting in accordance with the sustainable development principle. At the Council the project is likely to focus in particular on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial position • Capital programme management • Use of performance information –with a focus on service user feedback and outcomes • Governance theme – Setting of well-being objectives 	Ongoing	Scoping
Thematic review – unscheduled care	<p>We intend to undertake a cross-sector review focusing on the flow of patients out of hospital. This review will consider how the Council is working with its partners to address the risks associated with the provision of social care to support hospital discharge, as well as prevent hospital admission. The work will also consider what steps are being taken to provide medium to longer-term solutions</p>	October to December 2022	Scoping
Thematic review – digital / service user perspective	<p>Likely to focus on an aspect of ‘digital’ possibly with a service user emphasis.</p>	March 2023	Scoping
Local project	<p>We will review the Council's performance management arrangements and establish how well they inform the Council of progress in meeting its priorities</p>	July to October 2022	Drafting

Local government national studies planned/in progress

Study	Scope	Timetable	Status	Fieldwork planned at Bridgend Council
Poverty	Understanding how local authorities ensure they deliver their services to minimise or reduce poverty.	Autumn 2021 – Autumn 2022	Clearance – publication October 2022	Yes – interview with nominated officer at the Council
Social Enterprises	Review of how local authorities are supporting and utilising social enterprises to deliver services	Autumn 2021 – Autumn 2022	Clearance – publication November 2022	Yes – interview with nominated officer at the Council
Building Social Resilience and Self reliance	Review of how local authorities can build greater resilience in communities	Autumn 2021 – Autumn 2022	Report drafting	Yes – interview with nominated officer at the Council
Building safety	Review of how well local authorities are delivering their responsibilities for Building Safety	September 2022 – August 2023	Project initiation	Yes – interview with nominated officer at the Council and survey

Study	Scope	Timetable	Status	Fieldwork planned at Bridgend Council
Planning for sustainable development - Brownfield regeneration	Review of how local authorities are promoting and enabling better use of vacant non-domestic dwellings and brownfield sites	October 2022 – September 2023	Project development	Yes – interview with nominated officer at the Council and survey
Corporate Joint Committees	Assessing CJsCs' progress in developing their arrangements to meet their statutory obligations and the Welsh Government's aim of strengthening regional collaboration.	September 2022 – January 2023	Setting up fieldwork	Yes – We are exploring the Council's perspective via our routine liaison meetings. Fieldwork includes interviews with the chief executive, director of finance and chair of each of the four CJsCs.

Estyn

Estyn planned work 2022-23	Scope	Timetable	Status
Local Government Education Services Inspections	Estyn inspected Anglesey and Swansea local government education services during the summer term. The reports were published in August and early September. Estyn carried out a post inspection improvement conference in Torfaen in September and will be monitoring Pembrokeshire local authority in early October. Estyn has updated the inspection guidance to reflect a greater emphasis on socio-economic disadvantage and inequity and to make minor tweaks in response to feedback from inspections in 2021-22	Inspection guidance review – July. Published on web-site September 1.	N/A
Curriculum Reform thematic review	Welsh Government have also asked Estyn to review the school improvement services in south-west Wales.	Evidence collecting in June/July – findings presented to WG in September	N/A

Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW)

CIW planned work 2022-23	Scope	Timetable	Status
Report of Performance Evaluation Inspection of Children's Services	The purpose of this inspection was to review the local authority's performance in exercising its social services duties and functions in line with legislation, on behalf of Welsh Ministers	May 2022	<u>Published</u>
Programme 2022-23	We continue to test and evaluate our revised approach – including assurance checks, improvement checks and PEI's. This will result in a revised operating framework for inspection and a revised code of practice.	April 2022- March 2023	In progress
Joint work	We continue to work with partners, sharing information and intelligence including completing joint reviews. We currently are working in collaboration with HIW for a national review of the stroke pathway and CMHT inspections.	Current	In progress
Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards Annual Monitoring Report for Health and Social Care 2021-22	Following the publication of the 2020-21 report planning is underway for the next report publication date to be confirmed	Publication to be confirmed	Drafting/Data collecting
Annual meeting with Statutory Directors of Social Services	CIW will meet with all Directors of Social Services	December 2022 and January 2023	Planning

CIW planned work 2022-23	Scope	Timetable	Status
<p>National review of Care Planning for children and young people subject to the Public Law Outline pre-proceedings</p>	<p>Purpose of the review</p> <p>To provide external scrutiny, assurance and to promote improvement regarding the quality of practice in relation to the care planning for children and young people subject to the public law outline pre-proceedings</p> <p>To consider the extent to which practice has progressed since the publication of both the CIW 'National Review of care planning for children and young people subject to public law outline pre proceedings' and the publication of the PLO working group report 2021 including best practice guidance.</p>	<p>September 2022</p>	<p>Planning/surveying</p>
<p>Joint Inspection Child Protection Arrangements</p>	<p>Cross-inspectorate approach. Areas to be determined. We will complete a further 4 multi agency joint inspections.</p> <p>We will publish a national report late 2023</p>	<p>Autumn 2022-Spring 2023</p>	<p>Planning</p>

CIW planned work 2022-23	Scope	Timetable	Status
Cafcass Assurance Check	<p>CIW will continue to develop its approach to inspection and review of Cafcass Cymru. We have published its first Assurance check letter.</p> <p>We will evaluate our approach and will consult on our revised approach late 2022. This will result in a revised operating framework for inspection and code of practice.</p>	September – December 2022	Planning

Audit Wales national reports and other outputs published since January 2022

Report title	Publication date and link to report
Equality Impact Assessments: More than a Tick Box Exercise?	<u>September 2022</u>
Welsh Government – setting of well-being objectives	<u>September 2022</u>
Welsh Government workforce planning and management	<u>September 2022</u>

Report title	Publication date and link to report
NHS Wales Finances Data Tool – up to March 2022	August 2022
Public Sector Readiness for Net Zero Carbon by 2030: Evidence Report	August 2022
Public Sector Readiness for Net Zero Carbon by 2030	July 2022
Sustainable Tourism in Wales’ National Parks	July 2022
Third Sector COVID-19 Response Fund – Memorandum for the Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee	July 2022
The Welsh Community Care Information System - update	July 2022
Tackling the Planned Care Backlog in Wales – and waiting times data tool	May 2022
The new Curriculum for Wales	May 2022
Unscheduled care – data tool and commentary	April 2022
Direct Payments for Adult Social Care	April 2022
Local Government Financial Sustainability data tool	February 2022

Report title	Publication date and link to report
Joint Working Between Emergency Services (including data tool)	<u>January 2022</u>

Audit Wales national reports and other outputs (work in progress/planned)¹

Title	Anticipated publication date
Welsh Government accounts commentary 2020-21 ²	September / October 2022
Collaborative arrangements for managing local public health resources	October 2022
National Fraud Initiative (summary report)	October 2022
Cyber resilience follow-up (learning from cyber-attacks)	October 2022
Flood risk management	November 2022
Orthopaedic services	November 2022
Quality governance in the NHS	November 2022

¹ We will continue to keep our plans under constant review, taking account of the evolving external environment, our audit priorities, the context of our own resourcing and the capacity of audited bodies to engage with us. This includes maintaining some flexibility so that we can respond to developments in Welsh Government policy and areas of possible interest for the Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee. On 22 September we published an article to our website providing an [update on the development of the Auditor General's work programme](#) following our consultation in spring 2022. We will be bringing some additional new work into our programme during the rest of 2022-23.

² To include commentary on issues raised in the Auditor General's report on the accounts concerning a payment made to the former Permanent Secretary and COVID-19 business support.

Title	Anticipated publication date
Digital inclusion	November / December 2022
Affordable housing	To be confirmed

Good Practice Exchange events and resources

Title	Link to resource
<p>Tackling poverty in Wales: responding to the challenge - This shared learning event will bring people together from across public services to share ideas, learning and knowledge on how organisations can respond to the challenges caused by poverty. We will share examples of approaches being taken by organisations within Wales and across the UK.</p>	<p><u>Tackling Poverty: Cardiff event</u></p> <p><u>Tackling Poverty: Conwy event</u></p>
<p>Direct Payments Provision – A webinar discussing our report on Direct Payments Provision and how they can be a key part in implementing the principles of the Social Service and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014</p>	<p><u>Direct Payments Provision webinar recording</u></p>
<p>Responding to the Climate Emergency in Wales</p> <p>A webinar discussing emerging findings from our baseline review of public bodies' arrangements to respond to the Welsh Government's carbon reduction targets for 2030.</p>	
<p>Covid Perspectives: A series of recorded conversations learning how organisations have adapted to the extended period of uncertainty following the initial covid emergency.</p>	<p><u>Good Practice Audit Wales</u></p>

Recent Audit Wales Blogs

Title	Publication date
<u>Cost of living and putting away the bayonet</u>	21 September 2022
<u>Heat is on to tackle Climate Change Audit Wales</u>	18 August 2022
<u>Direct Payments in Wales</u>	15 June 2022
<u>Unscheduled Care in Wales – a system under real pressure</u>	21 April 2022
<u>Skills Competition Wales</u>	18 February 2022
<u>Cyber resilience – one year on</u>	9 February 2022
<u>Helping to tell the story through numbers</u> (Local government financial sustainability data tool)	3 February 2022
<u>Call for clearer information on climate change spending</u>	2 February 2022
<u>Actions speak louder than words</u> (Building social resilience and self-reliance in citizens and communities)	14 January 2022