NHS Monthly Insight Report

October 2021

360 Assurance is a member of The Internal Audit Network (TIAN) which comprises the 10 NHS internal audit consortiums and in house teams operating in England. These organisations collaborate across a number of areas to leverage their collective knowledge and expertise and drive efficiency and effectiveness. The monthly insight report highlights key publications and is intended as a useful update and reference tool. This report is produced by TIAN and shared by 360 Assurance.

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Introduction

The Internal Audit Network (TIAN) comprises the 10 NHS internal audit consortiums and in house teams operating in England. These organisations collaborate across a number of areas to leverage their collective knowledge and expertise and drive efficiency and effectiveness. The monthly Insight Report is produced by CW Audit on behalf of TIAN and is shared across TIAN members and their clients.

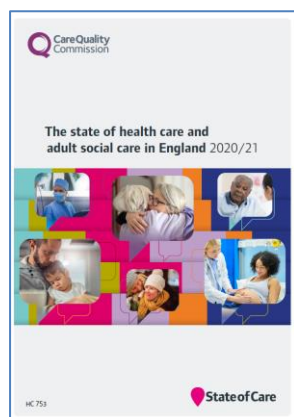| Developments in the NHS	
CQC issues "Home For Good" report	The Care Quality Commission's Home for Good report celebrates examples of successful community support provided to people with complex needs. The report includes eight stories of people who have previously been placed in hospital settings, often called Assessment and Treatment Units and how all are now thriving in community services across England. These stories describe how people's lives have changed when they are given the opportunity to live in their own home, with a supportive staff team where they can exercise choice, independence and control alongside real participation in the community. Although there is no single model of care and support that explains why some community support works better than others the eight stories have common threads. The report can be found here: https://www.cqc.org.uk/news/stories/cqc-report-highlights-how-right-community-support-can-improve-outcomes-people-learning ***For information***
CQC State of Care report 2020/21 	State of Care is the CQC's annual assessment of health care and social care in England. The report looks at the trends, shares examples of good and outstanding care, and highlights where care needs to improve. The report is set in the context of delivering healthcare during a global pandemic, and reflects upon the changes / impacts as the government' vaccination programme takes effect. The report summarises the key features of healthcare during 2020/21 including the real challenges the NHS face and some of the proposed solutions. It can be found here: https://www.cqc.org.uk/publications/major-report/state-care ***For information***

Developments in the NHS		
Building mentally healthier integrated care systems (Centre for Mental Health policy briefing) 	The Covid-19 pandemic is being accompanied by a sharp rise in demand for mental health services. Whilst high quality clinical services are vital in addressing rising needs, the size and nature of the challenge means that treatment alone cannot manage this crisis. *Better together: A public health model for mentally healthier integrated care systems* outlines how integrated care systems can adopt a public health model to use their budgets, powers and influence to support better mental health outcomes for all. Involving all NHS bodies and local authorities in 42 areas covering the whole of England, integrated care systems have an increasingly important role to play in organising health and care and addressing the wider factors that influence people's health. To support better mental health, integrated care systems must focus on reducing poverty and inequality whilst improving the environment and providing tailored support for people with the highest risks of mental illness. The briefing highlights three equally important aspects to a public health model of preventing mental ill health: • **Primary prevention:** supporting whole population mental health, for example by getting Living Wage Foundation accreditation and reducing air pollution • **Secondary prevention:** supporting people with higher risk factors for mental illness, by tackling discrimination and screening for social needs, for example • **Tertiary prevention:** supporting people with mental health difficulties, for example by delivering parity between mental and physical health and ensuring continuity of care for those leaving prison. The briefing can be found here: https://www.centreformentalhealth.org.uk/publications/briefing-57-better-together ***For information***	

HFMA year-end survey 2020/21
 	
	HFMA conducted a survey regarding the year-end audit process. The following key points were raised:
	• the Covid-19 financial regime impacted on all parts of the preparation and audit of the accounts
	• some central guidance and centrally provided information was made available late in the process and that caused some difficulties particularly in relation to:
	  • arrangements for central procurement of equipment and stock
	  • accounting for new arrangements and the funding arrangements for initiatives such as the lighthouse labs
	• NHS bodies and their auditors have different views on:
	  • the extended deadline – auditors see it as necessary to complete their work, NHS bodies view it as auditors taking the additional time to undertake more (and perhaps unnecessary) work
	  • changes to the financial regime – NHS bodies are concerned that auditors do not understand the guidance that they are working to while auditors are concerned that NHS bodies are not preparing robust working papers that justify the judgements that they have made
	• agreement of balances remains problematic but for different reasons than before the pandemic. Transactions with NHS England are difficult to agree and there were difficulties with agreeing the timing of transactions.
	
	The survey can be found here: https://www.hfma.org.uk/publications/details/year-end-survey-2020-21
	
	For information	

Developments in the NHS	
The value of investing in social care	Nuffield Trust has joined forces with the Health Foundation and The King's Fund to set out the potential benefits of finally tackling the challenges facing the sector. In September 2021, the government announced some important reforms to adult social care, including a 'cap' on care costs and an extension of the means test which determines whether people are eligible for state-funded care. But social care isn't 'fixed' yet. These reforms and promised funding are not enough to provide care to everyone who needs it, to ensure staff are fairly rewarded, and to make other vital improvements to our social care system. Big challenges clearly remain. In this briefing, the Health Foundation, The King's Fund and Nuffield Trust have come together to set out the potential benefits of tackling these challenges. They set out seven benefits of social care in England where there are opportunities offered by additional funding for further reform. They also put forward key priorities for the government's promised white paper on adult social care reform. The briefing can be found here: https://www.nuffieldtrust.org.uk/resource/the-value-of-investing-in-social-care ***For information***

Developments in the NHS	
Assessing the impact of COVID-19 on the clinically extremely vulnerable population	By February 2021 more than 4 million people across the UK had been identified as clinically extremely vulnerable to COVID-19 and advised to shield. This briefing shows the scale of the challenge of ensuring that the most clinically vulnerable to COVID-19 are kept safe, and in providing high-quality health and social care during the pandemic. It also indicates that there are substantial unmet needs that should be prioritised to ensure that the mental and physical health of this group does not deteriorate further. In this briefing, the Health Foundation: • present analysis from the Networked Data Lab on the impact the pandemic has had on the clinically extremely vulnerable population • assess the mental health of people identified as clinically extremely vulnerable • examine the data on access to care for clinically extremely vulnerable • assess the limitations to the use of an algorithm-driven approach to identifying the clinically extremely vulnerable population which were exacerbated by poor availability of high-quality data. The briefing can be found here: https://www.health.org.uk/publications/reports/assessing-the-impact-of-covid-19-on-the-clinically-extremely-vulnerable-population ***For information***
Overseas nurse recruitment and the NHS (Nuffield Trust report) **Briefing October 2021** **Return on investment of overseas nurse recruitment: lessons for the NHS** Billy Palmer, Claudia Leone and John Appleby **nuffieldtrust**	The recruitment of nurses from overseas is vital for securing the staff we need in order to meet ambitious national goals to expand the workforce - but what are the benefits and costs? This major new research commissioned by NHS England and NHS Improvement explores the business case for overseas recruitment and looks at the factors that attract or deter nurses from choosing to work in the UK. In this briefing, Nuffield Trust consider lessons for the NHS. Their research report (https://www.nuffieldtrust.org.uk/files/2021-10/recruitment-of-nurses-report-web.pdf) presents the data and analysis they carried out in more depth. They have also conducted a review on factors that attract or deter staff from choosing to work in the NHS in England, based on interviews, data analysis and a literature review. The report draws out the contribution of overseas recruitment to the supply of staff and some of the key push and pull factors in the decision to move. They also looked at what influences nurses' selection of a particular trust or region and how the recruitment process works. Their report can be found here: https://www.nuffieldtrust.org.uk/research/overseas-nurse-recruitment-and-the-nhs ***For consideration by NHS providers and any lessons that can be learnt with regard to overseas nurse recruitment***

Developments in the NHS	
NAO issues Cyber and information security: Good practice guide 	Audit committees should be scrutinising cyber security arrangements. To aid them, this guidance complements government advice by setting out high-level questions and issues for audit committees to consider. Audit committees should gain the appropriate assurance for the critical management and control of cyber security and information risk. Cyber security is the activity required to protect an organisation's data, devices, networks and software from unintended or unauthorised access, change or destruction via the internet or other communications systems or technologies. Effective cyber security relies on people and management of processes as well as technical controls. This NAO guide supports audit committees to work through this complexity, being able to understand and question the management of cyber security and information risk. It takes into account several changes which affect the way in which we interact with and manage our information and can drive increased risk. These include changes to the way we work and live due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing demand to digitise and move to cloud-based services. The strategic advice, guidance and support provided by government has also been updated to keep pace with these changes, detailing the impact and risks on the management of cyber security and information risk. The guide provides a checklist of questions and issues covering: • The overall approach to cyber security and risk management • Capability needed to manage cyber security • Specific aspects, such as information risk management, engagement and training, asset management, architecture and configuration, vulnerability management, identity and access management, data security, logging and monitoring and incident management. The guidance is based on our previous work and our detailed systems audits, which have identified a high incidence of access-control weaknesses. It also provides links to other government guidance and NAO resources. It can be found here: https://www.nao.org.uk/report/cyber-security-and-information-risk-guidance/ **_For information and consideration by Audit Committees_**
NAO Climate change risk: A good practice guide for Audit and Risk Assurance Committees	Audit and Risk Assurance Committees (ARACs) play a key role in supporting and advising the board and Accounting Officer in their responsibilities over risk management. This guide will help ARACs recognise how climate change risks could manifest themselves and support them in challenging senior management on their approach to managing climate change risks. We have outlined specific reporting requirements that currently apply. Our primary audience is ARAC chairs of bodies that we audit, but the principles of the guide will be relevant for bodies across the wider public sector. It promotes good practice and should not be viewed as mandatory guidance. Climate change and the nature of its impacts on organisations globally is changing rapidly. This guide acknowledges the evolving nature of climate change and its associated risks and opportunities and will be refreshed in the future to reflect those changes. It can be found here: https://www.nao.org.uk/report/climate-change-risk-a-good-practice-guide-for-audit-and-risk-assurance-committees/ **_For information and consideration by Audit Committees_**

Developments in the NHS	
Management of NHS resources by integrated care boards (ICBs)	NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE/I) has published guidance on how the NHS financial framework will support collaboration between NHS organisations and their partners across integrated care systems (ICSs). It summarises previously published guidance, rather than introducing any new policies or requirements for ICSs. This NHS Providers' briefing sets out the key points and our initial analysis of the implications for trusts. It can be found here: https://nhsproviders.org/resource-library/briefings/management-of-nhs-resources-by-integrated-care-boards-icbs *For information*

Disclaimer: This briefing paper is intended to highlight recent developments and issues within the NHS that may be of interest to non-executive directors, lay members and NHS managers. It is not exhaustive and TIAN cannot be held responsible for any omission.