

**20<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

**Report from Audit and Financial Monitoring Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Internal Audit issues only)**

**1.0 Reports considered by Panel and summary of activity for the period September 2018 – January 2019**

1.1 This report presents details of the Audit and Financial Monitoring Overview and Scrutiny Panel meetings of the: -

- ✓ 17<sup>th</sup> September 2018
- ✓ 12<sup>th</sup> December 2018
- ✓ 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2019

**2.0 Details of Reports Examined**

2.1 17<sup>th</sup> September 2018

2.1.1 Internal Audit Reports

Five internal audit reports were presented to the Panel. These were: -

- ✓ Asset Management and Building Design (Substantial Assurance)
- ✓ Street Cleansing (Substantial Assurance)
- ✓ Integrated Commissioning (Substantial Assurance)
- ✓ Kershaw Day Centre (Limited Assurance); and
- ✓ Access Controls (Substantial Assurance).

2.1.2 The Assistant Director and Service Manager were in attendance to provide an update in respect of the Kershaw Day Centre Action Plan and provided responses to questions from Members.

2.1.3 Follow up to action plans arising from audit reports

In accordance with the agreed bi-annual review of progress made toward agreed action plans arising from audit reports previously reviewed by Panel Members, a schedule was submitted detailing progress made.

With regard to the audit reviews for Social Work Teams, Family Support Services and Children's Safeguarding, the responsible Assistant Directors were in attendance and advised the Panel of the current status of outstanding actions.

2.1.4 Ofsted Follow Up, Governor Services and Trade Waste Action Plan Progress

At the April and June 2018 Panel Meetings, Members requested that progress against action plans for the Ofsted Follow Up, Governor Services and Trade Waste audit reviews be presented to future meetings.

The Panel welcomed the progress that had been made towards the implementation of all agreed actions for the Governor Services and Trade Waste audit reviews.

With regard to the Ofsted Follow Up report, the Cabinet Member, Developing Young People provided an update on the recent Ofsted focused inspection of Children's Services. It was agreed that the Internal Audit Ofsted Follow Up action plan would be presented to the next Panel meeting.

## 2.2 12<sup>th</sup> December 2018

### 2.2.1 Internal Audit Reports

Nine internal audit reports were presented to the Panel. These were: -

- ✓ Ethical Governance (Substantial Assurance)
- ✓ Legal Services (Substantial Assurance)
- ✓ Risk Management (Substantial Assurance)
- ✓ Indoor Leisure and Recreation (Substantial Assurance)
- ✓ Children's Centres (Substantial Assurance)
- ✓ Music Service (Limited Assurance)
- ✓ IT Environmental Controls (Substantial Assurance)
- ✓ Counter Fraud – Direct Payments (Substantial Assurance)
- ✓ Counter Fraud – Accounts Payable Feeder Systems (Substantial Assurance)

2.2.2 The Assistant Director, People's Services, was requested to attend the Meeting in relation to the Music Service review. The Assistant Director informed the Panel of progress made against the action plan and provided responses to questions from Members

### 2.2.3 Ofsted Follow Up – Update

The Internal Audit Ofsted Follow Up review considered progress against two Ofsted Improvement Action Plans from 2014, Children's Services and the St Helens Local Safeguarding Children's Board.

These two Improvement Action Plans have now been superseded, following a Focused Inspection of Children in Need and Children Subject to a Child Protection Plan in July 2018. This Inspection identified significant problems across Children's Services and issued three Priority Action Notices. A Children's Improvement Plan has subsequently been produced.

The Assistant Director, Council Priority Setting and Children's Improvement Board has confirmed that all actions from the 2014 Improvement Plans have either been completed or have been included in the Children's Improvement Plan 2018.

Therefore, the Panel resolved that the Internal Audit Ofsted Follow Up Action Plan be closed down.

## 2.4 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2019

### 2.4.1 Internal Audit Reports

Three internal audit reports were presented to the Panel. These were: -

- ✓ Appraisal and Supervision (Limited Assurance)
- ✓ Brookfield Centre (Substantial Assurance)
- ✓ Pupil Premium Grant (Substantial Assurance)

2.4.2 The Strategic Director, People's Services/Clinical Accountable Officer and Cabinet Member for Developing Young People were in attendance to provide an update of progress made thus far in respect of the People's Services Department Appraisal and Supervision audit action plan.

**3.0 Issues for the Attention of the Audit and Governance Committee**

3.1 The Audit and Financial Monitoring Overview and Scrutiny Panel do not consider at this time, that there are any significant control issues that need to be brought to the attention of the Audit and Governance Committee.

*Councillor R. McCauley*

*Chair of Audit and Financial Monitoring Overview and Scrutiny Panel*