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Item No: 19

Meeting Date: Wednesday 24th June 2026

Glasgow City Integration Joint Board

Report By: Graham Haddock, Chair - Finance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee

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Update from Chair of Finance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee (10th June 2026)

The last FASC meeting took place on Wednesday [10th June 2026](#) at 9.30am.
Matters discussed included:

- The committee was assured by an audit on the governance surrounding the STEP Forward programme. Reasonable level of assurance was given by the auditors and five recommendations and one service improvement made, all of which have been accepted for action.
- The committee noted the Chief Auditor's Annual Report. Concern was expressed about ICT security and problems with some apps used by the Homecare service. There is an increasing risk that these apps will cease to deliver from October 2026. This matter is outwith the control of the HSCP. The Executive Team is seeking resolution of these issues as a matter of urgency.
- The committee was pleased to receive the financial outturn report for 2025/26. The IJB reported an operational underspend of £0.579m. The committee approved the transfer of £8.250m (from budget smoothing) and the additional £0.579m (from the operational underspend) to general reserves and a further £22.779m to earmarked reserves. With these transfers our general reserves now sit at £33.108m which is 1.8% of net expenditure and close to the 2% target. This will reduce to 1.2% when the £10m allocated from reserves to the 2026/27 budget to facilitate the STEP Forward programme is withdrawn.
- The committee considered the Unaudited Annual Accounts for the year 2025/26 and approved the submission of these Accounts to the External Auditor by 30th June 2026 deadline.
- The committee considered the Q4 performance report and focussed on those performance metrics which were RAG rated red for more than two quarters. Deep dive presentations were made on Homelessness, Justice Services and Prison Healthcare.

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- The committee considered the six-monthly Attendance Management report. Sickness absence levels remain well above target (5%) for both social work staff (at 9.6%) and healthcare staff (at 8.04%). Long term sickness absence accounts for over 70% of sickness absence in social work and just under 60% for healthcare staff. A detailed action plan is in place to try to address these issues.
- The Clinical and Professional Quarterly Assurance Statement was received by the committee. The breadth and depth of this important assurance work was acknowledged. Work has started on the action plan following the publication of the Family C Learning Review and a more detailed paper will be presented at the September 2026 FASC meeting.
- The committee received a very detailed paper explaining the challenges being faced in relation to processing Subject Access Requests (SAR). We are facing an ever-increasing number of SARs and, despite a 300% increase in staffing since 2018, are struggling to clear the current backlog of 891 cases. The number of SARs pages processed has increased from 14875 in the month of February 2025 to 65426 in May 2026. Several English legal firms have been making what are perceived to be speculative SARs requests (one firm submitted 34 SARs in one week), which is impacting on this work. On a more positive note, changes to the requirement to request a SAR to access the Redress Programme might start to mitigate against the current pressures. A short chronology of care experience will satisfy this requirement and has already resulted in the withdrawal of some SAR requests. The team hopes to clear 72 SARs per month more than it receives with the aim to clear the backlog by March 2027.
- The Short Life Working Group on Risk Management reported on its work to date. This will form the basis of the IJB Development Session on 17th June 2026.

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