

Meeting: Audit Committee

Date: previously considered at the Audit Committee on 8 September 2025, recirculated for Members reference at the Audit Committee on 18 February 2026

Wards Affected: None

Report Title: Risk Assurance Report For Our Integrated Adult Social Care Services

Is the decision a key decision? No

When does the decision need to be implemented? N/A

Cabinet Member Contact Details: Councillor Tranter, Cabinet Member for Adult and Community Services, Public Health and Inequalities, Hayley.tranter@torbay.gov.uk
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Director Contact Details: Anna Coles, Director of Adult and Community Services, anna.coles@torbay.gov.uk

1. Introduction

- 1.1 During 2022/23 Audit Committee approved the inclusion of Appendix A - Risk Governance Process for Our Integrated Adult Social Care Service within the Council's Risk Management Framework.
- 1.2 The process was put in place as the statutory responsibility for Adult Social Care Services (ASC) sits with the Council, however, the Council has had an agreement in place since 2005 with Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust (TSDFT) to deliver the operational services on the Council's behalf.
- 1.3 As these services represent a significant spend for the Council (approximately 30% of the Council's overall net budget for 2025/26), our risk processes state that the Director of Adult Services will bring to Audit Committee an annual assurance report.
- 1.4 As set out in Appendix A, audits conducted on the Council's governance services for ASC are carried out by Devon Assurance Partnership. Audits conducted on Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust's operational ASC services are carried out by ASW Assurance.
- 1.5 This report provides a summary of both auditors' views and audit plans for 2024/25.

2. ASW Assurance Statement

- 2.1 Attached as Appendix B is a letter from ASW providing details relating to their assurance work that was carried out at the Trust during 2024/25. The statement consists of two elements; Internal Audit Assurance and Counter Fraud Service Assurance. The Head of Internal Audit's opinion, as presented to TSDFT at its Audit and Risk Committee held in June 2025, provided an overall '*Limited*' opinion. This was based on the audit work conducted during 2024/25. There were two specific audits carried out in relation to the Adult Social Care Services. These were:

- Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DOLS)
- Advocacy

3. Devon Assurance Partnership (DAP)

- 3.1 It was originally agreed during 2024/25 that Devon Assurance Partnership would carry out an inspection of the:

- Adult Social Care Transformation Plan
- Adult Social Use of social care grants

The assurance of these audits is shown in the Internal Audit Annual Report which is being presented at this committee.

4. Future Audit Plans

- 4.1 The Torbay Council Internal Audit Plan was approved by Audit Committee in March 2025. In respect of ASC the plan included the following pieces of work which will be completed by DAP during 2025/26:

- ASC Transformation Plan – focus on new software implementation
- ASC Client debt - follow up audit

- 4.2 On 20th August 2025 a meeting took place with the Director of Adult and Community Services and ASW Assurance to agree the audit work for 2025/26 in relation to the ASC's operational services. The following pieces of work will be completed by ASW during 2025/26:

- Review of safeguarding protocols, procedures and practice
- Review of direct payments, improvement plan implementation, process and practice

5. Risk Governance Process for Our Integrated Adult Social Care Service

- 5.1 With the introduction of the Section 75 Executive Committee meeting, the Director of Adult and Community Services has requested that this report is also presented there.

6. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision

- (i) That Audit Committee note the report.

Appendices

Appendix A: Risk Governance Process for Our Integrated Adult Social Care Service

Appendix B: ASW Assurance's Annual Assurance Statement

Background Documents