

Archwilydd Cyffredinol Cymru
Auditor General for Wales

Our Work Programme – 2019-20



WALES AUDIT OFFICE
SWYDDFA ARCHWILIO CYMRU



Every year, we publish reports on the big issues facing Welsh public services.

We take account of the views of people who work in and with the public sector as well as the people of Wales – so that they can help to shape our future audits.

Here is an outline of our current work in progress and other work that we are planning to take forward during this year.





Work in progress

Integrated Care Fund

Our cross-sector review will look at whether the Integrated Care Fund is being used effectively to deliver sustainable services that achieve better outcomes for service-users.

Improving the well-being of young people

We will provide an overview of relevant trends and the key lessons for the Welsh Government to learn based on our review of issues – including young parents, young adult carers, homelessness, mental health, jobs and skills.

Primary care services

Following our 2018 Picture of Primary Care report, we have looked at whether health boards are well placed to implement the strategic vision for primary care and are preparing a national summary of our findings.

A465 (Section 2) road improvement

We are undertaking this work in the context of wider concerns about cost and time overruns. We plan to publish an initial 'interim findings' report.

Public Service Boards

This work will focus on issues relating to the performance of Public Service Boards as vehicles for improving the well-being of citizens.

Tackling violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence

This report considers whether local authorities are collaborating effectively with their partners to prevent violence against women and domestic abuse.

NHS clinical coding

We are examining NHS bodies' clinical coding arrangements, including a review of progress in implementing recommendations set out in our 2014 local audit reports on this topic.

Quality governance arrangements in NHS bodies

This work will examine quality governance arrangements at NHS bodies, with a focus on the arrangements underpinning the work of quality and safety committees.

At Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board we will be working with Healthcare Inspectorate Wales on a joint review following on from recent concerns about maternity services.

First point of contact processes for social care

We are assessing whether local authority first point of contact processes are meeting the needs of service users and carers in line with the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.

Collaborative arrangements for managing local public health resources

We will examine whether NHS Wales has worked collectively to address the issues identified through previous local audit work at Public Health Wales NHS Trust.

Asbestos removal programme at Ysbyty Glan Clwyd – Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board

We are considering how the asbestos removal programme at the hospital has been governed and managed, taking account of the respective roles of the Health Board, NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership and the Welsh Government.

Orthopaedic services

Following our 2015 report, we are examining whether previous audit recommendations have been implemented. Our focus is on elective services but also considering the impact of emergency/unplanned demand.

Well-being of future generations

We are continuing our work to carry out the Auditor General's duties under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. We will examine and report on the extent to which relevant public bodies have acted in accordance with the 'sustainable development principle' when setting and taking steps to meet 'well-being objectives'.

Commercialisation in local authorities

This work will consider how effective local authorities are at developing and managing commercial opportunities and evidence of the impact of those activities.

Impact of austerity on local authority discretionary services

This work will consider the scale of changes in discretionary provision and whether councils have an effective approach to decide how to provide services in the future.



Future planned work

A picture of public services

This work will provide commentary on financial and other challenges facing devolved public services through a series of different outputs, having started with the publication in June 2019 of an NHS finances data-tool.

Brexit

Following our February 2019 report, we will be taking forward further work to consider how public bodies are responding to the implications, risks and opportunities of Brexit.

Preventing fraud and corruption

Following a June 2019 overview report for the National Assembly's Public Accounts Committee, we are likely to take forward further work to consider in more detail the effectiveness of public bodies' arrangements.

Administration of student finance

We will explore issues relating to the overall administration of the student finance system, including the implementation of the new arrangements introduced from September 2018 and the Welsh Government's modelling of future repayments.

Fuel poverty / energy efficiency

This work will look at progress in tackling fuel poverty and some of the key challenges for the Welsh Government as it develops a new fuel poverty plan for consultation in the autumn.

Welsh Government workforce

We will look at how the Welsh Government is planning and managing its workforce in light of the changing environment in which it operates.

Welsh Government ICT

This work will consider the Welsh Government's decision to bring its core IT service in-house from early 2019, including expected costs and benefits and the extent to which the new arrangements are delivering in line with expectations.

Digital resilience

We will look at how public bodies are ensuring that their IT systems are resilient, robust and secure so that, in the event of serious incidents, systems can be recovered quickly and services can keep running.

Welsh Community Care Information System (WCCIS)

We will assess the effectiveness of the national and local implementation arrangements for the WCCIS and explore whether the investment to date has provided value for money.

Financial sustainability in local government

This work will examine medium and longer-term financial strategy, budget management, cost pressures, efficiency and savings plans, and the levels and use of reserves across all local authorities.

Grants management

We will reflect on how the Welsh Government has been managing changes to grant schemes as part of a wider look at how grant management arrangements have developed since our 2011 report.

NHS waiting times

We intend to follow-up on our 2015 report to look at progress with elective waiting times and how the Welsh Government has responded to our recommendations. This will also link to our ongoing work on orthopaedic services.

Covering teachers' absence

We plan to follow-up on developments since our 2013 report, including in response to the 'Ministerial Supply Model Taskforce's 2017' report.

If you have any comments on the topics, you can share them with us by emailing info@audit.wales.

If you have specific concerns about the way a service, project, programme or organisation is currently being run then please see our [website section on raising concerns](#).

[Our privacy notice](#) tells you about what to expect when you get in touch with the Auditor General for Wales or the Wales Audit Office.

Wales Audit Office
24 Cathedral Road
Cardiff CF11 9LJ

Tel: 029 2032 0500

Fax: 029 2032 0600

Textphone: 029 2032 0660

E-mail: info@wao.gov.uk

Website: www.wao.gov.uk

Swyddfa Archwilio Cymru
24 Heol y Gadeirlan
Caerdydd CF11 9LJ

Ffôn: 029 2032 0500

Ffacs: 029 2032 0600

Ffôn Testun: 029 2032 0660

E-bost: info@wao.gov.uk

Gwefan: www.wao.gov.uk