

Orkney Islands Council

Local Scrutiny Plan

2018/19



April 2018

Orkney Islands Council

Local Scrutiny Plan – April 2018 to March 2019

Introduction

1. This local scrutiny plan sets out any scrutiny risks identified by the local area network (LAN), proposed scrutiny responses and expected scrutiny activity for Orkney Islands Council (OIC) during the financial year 2018/19.
2. The scrutiny risks and responses are based on a shared risk assessment undertaken by a local area network (LAN), comprising representatives of all the scrutiny bodies who engage with the council:
 - Audit Scotland
 - Care Inspectorate
 - Education Scotland
 - Scottish Housing Regulator
3. The shared risk assessment process draws on a range of evidence with the aim of determining any scrutiny risks in the council and the Integration Joint Board (IJB). Expected scrutiny activity across all councils in Scotland informs the National Scrutiny Plan for 2018/19, which is available on the Audit Scotland website www.audit-scotland.gov.uk.

Scrutiny risks

4. The 2018/19 shared risk assessment process has not identified, from its assessment for OIC, any additional risk areas where specific scrutiny is required, other than what is nationally directed or part of ongoing work programme by scrutiny bodies.
5. The Audit Scotland Best Value Annual Report identified a number of recommendations in areas such as financial sustainability including their transformational change programme, workforce planning and implementation of Information Technology strategies which will require to be monitored. We plan to follow up progress that OIC is making to implement the recommendations and will report this through our Annual Audit Report.
6. Audit Scotland also plans to undertake performance audit work in a range of areas covering local government during 2018/19. These include City Deals, changing models of health and social care integration, and children and young people's mental health services. In addition, Audit Scotland will publish the findings of a performance audit relating to Arms Length External Organisations (ALEOs).

7. Any engagement with individual councils is still to be determined. Details of future audit work are available on the Audit Scotland website [here](#).
8. **Scottish Housing Regulator (SHR):** The SHR has reviewed and compared the performance of all Scottish social landlords to identify the weakest performing landlords. SHR has assessed that no additional scrutiny is required in OIC beyond statutory/ongoing work during 2018/19.
9. SHR may carry out thematic inquiries during 2018/19 or it may carry out survey or on-site work to follow up on published thematic reports. The SHR will also review the Scottish Social Housing Charter data submitted by landlords and carry out data accuracy visits during the second quarter of 2018/19. Where councils are to be involved in a thematic inquiry, any follow-up work to a published thematic inquiry, or a data accuracy visit, the SHR will confirm this directly with OIC and the LAN lead.
10. **Education Scotland:** The LAN has concluded that no specific additional scrutiny work is required beyond the ongoing inspection and support activity that Education Scotland provides to the council.
11. Strategic leadership and governance of education are strong. OIC has appropriate governance in place to ensure that educational provision is well organised and well led. Scrutiny outcomes, including inspections, have been positive in recent years. Outcomes for young people are generally improving and are, overall, more positive than outcomes for young people with similar needs and backgrounds from across the country. Approaches being taken to ensure quality improvement within education are strong and have the capacity to lead to further improvements in provision.
12. OIC is receiving universal support from the Scottish Attainment Challenge. Schools in OIC have Pupil Equity Funding plans in place and are being progressed. Education Scotland will continue to liaise with establishments as appropriate. Overall, there are no particular concerns with OIC's educational provision and therefore there will be no additional scrutiny in 2018/19 beyond the general inspection programme.
13. **Care Inspectorate:** The Care Inspectorate with partners Healthcare Improvement Scotland undertook an inspection of services to older people which was published in March 2017. OIC has since produced an action plan and are addressing the issues highlighted. The Care Inspectorate undertook work with the chief officers to support this in the latter part of 2017 and work was ongoing to address these issues. Outcomes for people using services within Orkney are generally good and while there are no major concerns about social care services within Orkney, there had been some significant recent changes within the leadership and this may have effect over the coming months in continuing to drive change and improvement. OIC, along with its partners however have made investments in new units to support vulnerable people and there is a generally good performance within those services which are regulated. OIC has good links to their more isolated communities within the outer isles and this supports the delivery of responsive services.

14. **Social care:** The integrated arrangements for health and care, through the Integration Joint Board (IJB) have been established effectively and it is functioning well. There is no strategic scrutiny currently scheduled for Orkney IJB during the 2018/19 inspection year.
15. **Duties under the Public Bodies (Joint Working)(Scotland) Act:** From April 2017, the Care Inspectorate and Healthcare Improvement Scotland have a joint duty under the Public Bodies (Joint Working)(Scotland) Act 2014 to assess and report on the effectiveness of integration authorities' strategic plans. In these early stages of the integration of health and social care, the Care Inspectorate will report on the progress which integration authorities are making towards a more collaborative culture and integrated approaches to planning and delivering services which should deliver improved outcomes for people in communities. During 2018/19 the Care Inspectorate intends to visit three partnerships to report on their progress. Where councils are to be involved the Care Inspectorate will confirm this directly with the council and the LAN lead.
16. **Self-directed support:** The Care Inspectorate is currently undertaking preparatory work for a thematic review of self-directed support which will be carried out during 2018/19. The aim is to build on the key findings of Audit Scotland's progress report, published in August 2017, particularly to explore the ability and confidence of front line staff to implement self-direction support legislation by offering choice and control and making decisions with people about their support.
17. Throughout the year, the Care Inspectorate will conduct an inspection in up to six areas across the country with the aim of identifying factors which support effective implementation of the legislation and barriers which require to be overcome. The Care Inspectorate will provide feedback on each area and publish an overview report which will be disseminated more widely, with the expectation that all areas will then use these findings to evaluate their own practice and make improvements where necessary. Where councils are to be involved the Care Inspectorate will confirm this directly with the council and the LAN lead.
18. **Joint inspections of services for children and young people:** From April 2018, Scottish ministers have asked the Care Inspectorate to lead another programme of joint inspections of service for children and young people, with scrutiny partners Education Scotland, Healthcare Improvement Scotland and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland. Scottish ministers have asked these organisations to provide assurance about how community planning partners are protecting and meet the needs of children and young people who have experienced, or at risk of, abuse and neglect, and how they are working together to improve outcomes for children and young people who are subject to corporate parenting requirements. The intent is to carry out five joint inspections in 2018/19.

19. It has been agreed with ministers that, for the duration of this programme of inspections, an area of specific enquiry will be incorporated each year, with the aim of identifying key lessons and best practice which all partnerships could use to support their own continuous improvement. An overview report will be published at the end of each year. Where councils are to be involved the Care Inspectorate will confirm this directly with the council and the LAN lead.

Planned scrutiny activity

20. Any expected scrutiny activity between April 2018 and March 2019 is shown in Appendix 1. For some of their scrutiny activity in 2018/19, scrutiny bodies are still to determine their work programmes and which specific council areas they will cover. Where a council is to be involved, the relevant scrutiny body will confirm this with the council and the appropriate LAN lead.
21. In addition to specific work shown in Appendix 1, routine, scheduled audit and inspection work will take place through the annual audit process and the ongoing inspection of school and care establishments by Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate respectively. The outcomes of this work will help to inform future assessment of scrutiny risk.

March 2018

Appendix: Scrutiny plan

Scrutiny body	Scrutiny activity	Date
Audit Scotland	The council's first BVAR under the new arrangements was published in December 2017. In 2018/19 we will follow up its findings and plan to report within the local annual audit report.	Ongoing as part of 2017/18 annual audit and will be reported in September 2018
	Audit Scotland is due to publish the following performance audit reports in 2018/19: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arm's length and external organisations (ALEOs) - Spring 2018. • Scottish Fire and Rescue Service: an update – Spring 2018. • Managing the implementation of the Scotland Acts – Spring 2018. • Children's mental health services - Autumn 2018. • Integration of health and social care - Autumn 2018. • City deals - Winter 2018/19. 	Dates and locations of 2018/19 fieldwork to be determined
Care Inspectorate and Healthcare Improvement Scotland	Joint inspections of services for children and young people. Where councils are to be involved, the Care Inspectorate will confirm this directly with the council and the LAN lead.	Dates and locations to be determined
	Review of the progress which integration authorities are making towards a more collaborative culture and integrated approaches to planning and delivering services which should deliver improved outcomes for people in communities. Where integration authorities are to be involved, the Care Inspectorate will confirm this directly with the council and the LAN lead.	Dates and locations to be determined
	Thematic review of self-directed support.	Early engagement and briefings to start in Quarter 1, with fieldwork taking place in Quarters 3 and 4.
Scottish Housing Regulator	The Scottish Housing Regulator (SHR) may carry out thematic inquiries during 2018/19 or it may carry out survey or on-site work to follow up on published thematic reports. The SHR will also review the Scottish Social Housing Charter data submitted by landlords and carry out data accuracy visits during the second quarter of 2018/19. Where councils are to be involved in a thematic inquiry, any follow-up work to a published thematic inquiry,	Dates and locations to be determined

	or a data accuracy visit, the SHR will confirm this directly with the council and the LAN lead.	
Education Scotland	No specific additional scrutiny work is required beyond the ongoing inspection and support activity that Education Scotland provides to the council.	N/A

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A summary of local government strategic scrutiny activity

This report is available in PDF and RTF formats, along with a podcast summary at:

www.audit-scotland.gov.uk 

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