AGENDA

21st Meeting, 2018 (Session 5)

Thursday 27 September 2018

The Committee will meet at 9.00 am in the Adam Smith Room (CR5).

1. Decision on taking business in private: The Committee will decide whether to take items 4 and 5 in private.

2. Children and young people’s mental health: The Committee will take evidence on the joint report by the Auditor General for Scotland and the Accounts Commission on "Children and young people’s mental health" from—
   
   Caroline Gardner, Auditor General for Scotland;
   
   Claire Sweeney, Audit Director, Performance and Best Value, and Leigh Johnston, Senior Manager, Performance and Best Value, Audit Scotland.

3. Forth Replacement Crossing: The Committee will take evidence on the Auditor General for Scotland’s report on the "Forth Replacement Crossing" from—
   
   Caroline Gardner, Auditor General for Scotland;
   
   Graeme Greenhill, Senior Manager, and Jillian Matthew, Audit Manager, Audit Scotland.

4. Children and young people's mental health: The Committee will consider the evidence heard at agenda item 2 and take further evidence from—
   
   Caroline Gardner, Auditor General for Scotland;
   
   Claire Sweeney, Audit Director, Performance and Best Value, and Leigh Johnston, Senior Manager, Performance and Best Value, Audit Scotland.

5. Forth Replacement Crossing: The Committee will consider the evidence heard at agenda item 3 and take further evidence from—
Caroline Gardner, Auditor General for Scotland;

Graeme Greenhill, Senior Manager, and Jillian Matthew, Audit Manager, Audit Scotland.

Lucy Scharbert
Clerk to the Public Audit and Post-legislative Scrutiny Committee
Room T3.60
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
Tel: 0131 348 5451
Email: papls.committee@parliament.scot
The papers for this meeting are as follows—

**Agenda Item 2:**

Note by the Clerk  
PAPLS/S5/18/21/1

PRIVATE PAPER  
PAPLS/S5/18/21/2

**Agenda Item 3:**

Note by the Clerk  
PAPLS/S5/18/21/3

PRIVATE PAPER  
PAPLS/S5/18/21/4
Children and young people’s mental health

Introduction

1. At its meeting today, the Committee will take evidence from the Auditor General for Scotland on the Children and young people’s mental health report which was jointly published by the Auditor General and the Accounts Commission on 13 September 2018.

2. Audit Scotland has prepared a briefing on the key messages from the report, which is attached in the Annexe.

Clerks to the Committee
24 September 2018
1. The joint Auditor General and Accounts Commission report *Children and young people’s mental health* was published on 13 September 2018. It looks at how effectively children and young people’s mental health services are delivered and funded across Scotland. The report calls for a step change in the way the public sector responds to the mental health needs of children and young people. A wide range of national and local organisations need to work together to improve mental health services for children and young people.

2. Key messages and recommendations from the report are:

- Children and young people’s mental health and wellbeing is a priority for the Scottish Government. The Scottish Government’s mental health strategy focuses on early intervention and prevention, but in practice this is limited. Services for children and young people are largely focused on specialist care and responding to crisis.

- The system is complex and fragmented, and access to services varies throughout the country. This makes it difficult for children, young people, and their families and carers to get the support they need. NHS boards, councils, integration authorities and their partners need to work together to identify and address gaps in mental health services, in partnership with children and young people, their parents and carers. These organisations also need to deliver a clear and coordinated approach to mental health services for children and young people.

- We found that mental health services for children and young people are under significant pressure. The number of referrals to specialist services increased by 22 per cent, from 27,271 to 33,270, between 2013/14 and 2017/18, with rejected referrals also increasing. Children and young people are waiting longer for treatment, with 26 per cent who started treatment in 2017/18 waiting for over 18 weeks, compared to 15 per cent in 2013/14.
• Data on mental health services for children and young people is inadequate, with a lack of evidence of what difference existing services are making to children and young people with mental health problems. Information on spending is limited, but available information shows that six per cent of spending on NHS mental health services is on children and young people. Overall, between 2013/14 and 2016/17, NHS spending on children and young people’s mental health increased by 11.9 per cent in real terms, from £50.6 million to £56.6 million. More needs to be done to determine what financial and performance data should be collected and reported publicly, both at a national and local level. This should include information on quality and outcomes.

• Directing funding towards early intervention and prevention while also meeting the need for specialist and acute services is a major challenge. We have recommended that the Scottish Government develop a long-term financial plan for improving mental health services for children and young people. This should be a strategic plan which improves transparency about how resources are used, and should include the anticipated balance of spending across the whole system of mental health services for children and young people.

• A step change in the way that the public sector in Scotland responds to the mental health needs of children and young people is required, with integration authorities having a major role to play. Transforming services will only be possible with a clearer view of what works, a plan for how the system needs to change and a move away from reliance on short-term and isolated initiatives.

3. The report covers a number of areas that have been of interest to the Committee. These include:

• A lack of focus on services which intervene early or are preventative.

• Variation across Scotland in the availability of services, and differences in need across specific groups. For example, in this report we highlight on page 9 those children who are more likely to be affected by poor mental health. This includes children who are classed as looked after, have additional support needs or live in low income households.

• Poor data, for example, difficulties in identifying total spending on children and young people’s mental health services.
• Uncertainty about how outcomes will be achieved. For example, a lack of clarity about how the Scottish Government’s mental health strategy will improve outcomes for children and young people.
Public Audit and Post-legislative Scrutiny Committee

21st Meeting, 2018 (Session 5), Thursday 27 September 2018

Forth Replacement Crossing

Introduction

1. At its meeting today, the Committee will take evidence from the Auditor General for Scotland on her report on the Forth Replacement Crossing which was published on 2 August 2018.

2. The Auditor General has prepared a briefing on the key messages from the report, which is attached in the Annexe.

Clerks to the Committee
24 September 2018
1. The Auditor General’s report on the Forth Replacement Crossing was published on 2 August 2018.

2. Key messages from the report are:

   - Transport Scotland’s management of the Forth Replacement Crossing project delivered value for money, although some of the wider benefits of the project have still to be demonstrated. Its procurement of the construction contracts was competitive and helped to deliver the project under budget. The final cost of the project was £1.34 billion – around 8–16 per cent lower than the £1.45–£1.6 billion estimated at the start of construction. The new crossing opened at the end of August 2017. Due to bad weather, this was eight months later than first estimated and ten weeks later than the mid–June contract completion date.

   - There was a clear project scope and the budget included all relevant costs. Sound governance and wide-ranging risk management and quality assurance measures were in place. The team provided regular, consistent and up-to-date information to the project board about costs, risks, quality and timescales. This provided a strong foundation for the project to succeed. Other critical success factors included: investing in the right skills and experience early in the project; strong and consistent leadership; an open and transparent approach; timely decision-making; extensive engagement and communication with stakeholders; and positive working relationships with the contractors. There was also a drive and ambition of those involved in delivering the project to do it well and get it right first time.

3. Overall, this was a well managed project which delivered its key aim of maintaining a reliable road link between the Lothians and Fife. It is important Transport Scotland applies the good practice from the FRC project to future projects. The Scottish Government should also share good practice from the FRC project more widely, highlighting generic project management lessons that could be applied to other types of projects. Other key recommendations were:
• To deliver its projects, Transport Scotland needs to be able to attract sufficient interest, encourage high–quality bids and keep procurement competitive. Transport Scotland should consider the appropriate level of risk–sharing between Transport Scotland and contractors and the extent to which contractors are allowed to contribute to design and innovation on contracts.

• Transport Scotland is due to carry out a full post–project evaluation in late 2018. Its benefits realisation plan details how performance relating to journey times and traffic flow will be measured and the information required to measure this effectively. However, more detail is required on how it plans to evaluate other outcome measures. In particular, it needs a clear plan of how it will support public transport providers to meet increasing demand for travel across the Forth. Transport Scotland should continue to report in public about the project and progress in achieving the intended benefits.

4. The report covers a number of areas that have been of interest to the Committee previously including:

• capital investment in infrastructure
• effective project management and procurement
• ensuring lessons learned are shared widely
• achieving outcomes and demonstrating how these will be measured.

5. We have recently published a supplementary report Major project and procurement lessons summarising relevant findings and recommendations from previous audits of major projects, including the Forth Replacement Crossing. The purpose of this is to identify important lessons in managing projects. It can be found on our website, where we have pulled together relevant work on investment and infrastructure, including previous reports, good practice guides and links to other useful information.