

Open Report on behalf of Pete Moore, Executive Director Resources and Community Safety

Report to:	Audit Committee
Date:	19 March 2012
Subject:	Analysis of High Priority Recommendations Outstanding at 31 January 2012

Summary:

This report provides an analysis of the high priority audit recommendations outstanding at 31 January 2012, and suggests how they should be managed.

Recommendation(s):

That the Committee notes the contents of the report, agrees to the suggested actions, and identifies any additional actions it requires.

Background

1. The Corporate Audit Progress Report has identified 57 outstanding recommendations from audits that received 'No' or 'Limited' assurance. Of these 39 are high priority. This report provides more detail on the status of those high priority recommendations outstanding and suggests how they should be managed.

Adult Services

2. Of the high priority recommendations outstanding 36 relate to the following 4 audits undertaken within Adult Services:
 - Contract Management
 - Direct Payments
 - Personal Budgets
 - Contact & Referral

Corporate Audit is currently undertaking a robust follow-up of these recommendations to identify exactly which still apply, and which are actually outstanding. We will report our findings to the Audit Committee as soon as our work is completed – April 2012.

Other Service Areas

Audit	Residence Orders & Regulation 38 Payments		
Date	October 2011	Assurance	Limited
Action 1	Children's Services DMT to review the fact that allowances do not increase annually to remain inline with the current fostering rates for the age of the child.		
Status	We have not been provided with an update on this action.		
Suggested Action	The due date for this action has only recently passed, and there are further actions for which the due date has not been reached. We suggest that we continue to follow-up as part of our monitoring process.		

Audit	Wolds College		
Date	May 2011	Assurance	Limited
Action 1	To have an agreed plan in place for delivery of 16 - 19 education in the Louth Area by September 2011 and a new entity ready for September 2012.		
Action 2	The schools and College Board to consider the risks to their sustainability in putting forward the proposal to form a single entity.		
Status	Since the audit the situation with Wolds College has changed delaying the implementation of these actions. The Wolds College Board and the Headteachers of the schools involved have expressed a wish for the management of the College to transfer to Cordeaux School. The implications of this are being explored by the Schools Organisation Planning Team so that a formal proposition can be agreed with the Wolds College Board.		
Suggested Action	This area is scheduled in the Audit Committee work plan and we will continue to follow-up outstanding actions.		

Conclusion

- Most of the high priority recommendations outstanding are from Adult Services audits. We are undertaking a robust review of those recommendations and will report back to the Audit Committee – April 2012.
- In respect of those recommendations in other service areas we will continue to follow them up.

Consultation

a) Policy Proofing Actions Required

n/a

Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Lucy Pledge, who can be contacted on 01522-553692 or lucy.pledge@lincolnshire.gov.uk.