

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF NHS HERTS VALLEYS CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP**

### **Opinion on financial statements**

We have audited the financial statements of NHS Herts Valleys Clinical Commissioning Group (the CCG) for the year ended 31 March 2020, which comprise the Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure, the Statement of Financial Position, the Statement of Changes in Taxpayers' Equity, the Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) as adopted by the European Union, and as interpreted and adapted by the 2019-20 Government Financial Reporting Manual as contained in the Department of Health and Social Care's Group Accounting Manual 2019-20.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial position of NHS Herts Valleys CCG as at 31 March 2020 and of its net expenditure for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the Department of Health and Social Care's Group Accounting Manual 2019-20; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

### **Basis for opinion on financial statements**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the CCG in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### **Conclusions relating to going concern**

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the Accountable Officer's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the Accountable Officer has not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the CCG's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

### **Other information**

The Accountable Officer is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

### **Opinion on regularity**

In our opinion, in all material respects the expenditure and income recorded in the financial statements have been applied to the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions in the financial statements conform to the authorities which govern them.

### **Basis for opinion on regularity**

We carried out our work on regularity in accordance with Practice Note 10 issued by the Public Audit Forum. Our responsibilities in this respect are further described in the Auditor's other responsibilities section of our report. We believe the evidence obtained from this work, in conjunction with the evidence we have obtained in our audit of the financial statements, is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion on regularity.

### **Opinion on information in the Remuneration and Staff Report**

We have also audited the information in the Remuneration and Staff Report that is described in that report as having been audited.

In our opinion the parts of the Remuneration and Staff Report to be audited have been properly prepared in accordance with Department of Health and Social Care's Group Accounting Manual 2019-20.

### **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters which the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 requires us to report to you if:

- in our opinion the Governance statement does not comply with the guidance issued by NHS England; or
- we refer a matter to the Secretary of State under section 30 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 because we have reason to believe that the CCG, or an officer of the CCG, is about to make, or has made, a decision which involves or would involve the body incurring unlawful expenditure, or is about to take, or has begun to take a course of action which, if followed to its conclusion, would be unlawful and likely to cause a loss or deficiency; or
- we issue a report in the public interest under section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014; or
- we make a written recommendation to the CCG under section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014; or
- we are not satisfied that the CCG has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2020.

## **Responsibilities of the Accountable Officer**

As explained more fully in the Statement of Accountable Officer's Responsibilities, the Accountable Officer is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Accountable Officer determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Accountable Officer is responsible for assessing the CCG's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Accountable Officer either intends to liquidate the CCG or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

As explained in the Statement of Accountable Officer's Responsibilities, the Accountable Officer is also responsible for the propriety and regularity of the public finances for which the Accountable Officer is answerable and for ensuring the CCG exercises its functions effectively, efficiently and economically.

## **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

In respect of our audit of the financial statements our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located at the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

## **Auditor's other responsibilities**

In addition to our audit of the financial statements we are required to obtain evidence sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the expenditure and income recorded in the financial statements have been applied to the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial statements conform to the authorities which govern them.

We are also required under section 21(1)(c) of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 to be satisfied that the CCG has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. Section 21(5)(b) of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 requires that our report must not contain our opinion if we are satisfied that proper arrangements are in place.

We are not required to consider, nor have we considered, whether all aspects of the CCG's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources are operating effectively.

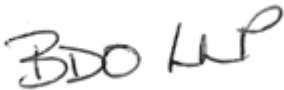
As set out in the Matters on which we report by exception section of our report there are certain other matters which we are required to report by exception.

## **Certificate**

We certify that we have completed the audit of the accounts of NHS Herts Valleys CCG in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the Code of Audit Practice issued by the National Audit Office.

## Use of our report

This report is made solely to the Members of the Governing Body of NHS Herts Valleys CCG, as a body, in accordance with part 5 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and as set out in paragraph 43 of the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies published by the National Audit Office in April 2015.. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Members of the Governing Body those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the CCG and the Members of the Governing Body of the CCG, as a body, for our audit work, this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Handwritten signature in black ink that reads "BDO LLP".

Lisa Clampin

For and on behalf of BDO LLP, Statutory Auditor  
Ipswich, UK

25 June 2020

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