

**Audit Reports issued to date in 2016/17 which had a “Limited Assurance”
Audit Opinion**

ASCH 1705 – Residential Services care & support for older adults – follow-up – July 2016. This follow-up review was carried out prior to the change in approach to the follow-up of audit recommendations. The key concern raised in the report is the rate of progress being made with bringing the contractual arrangements with health providers for intermediate care and assessment bed services into line with NCC Financial Regulations and Public Contracts Regulations 2015. The report recommends taking action now to set up a framework agreement for intermediate care to cater for the eventuality of funding becoming available beyond April 2017. Recommendations are also made regarding the authorisation of additional hours worked by staff and the lack of documentation to support some purchase cards transactions.

CFCS 1701 – Clayfields Secure Unit – follow-up – June 2016. This follow-up review was carried out prior to the change in approach to the follow-up of audit recommendations. It identified further lapses in controls over the Unit’s imprest account, which operates to a relatively high balance due to the need to process many of the young people’s allowances and pocket monies in cash. We also identified scope to limit further the use of the Unit’s purchase card, in favour of using the regular purchasing order processing facility in the Business Management System. Recommendations are also made to improve controls over cash handling and budgetary control.

CFCS 1705 – Troubled Families Programme – October 2016. Government funding of just over £5m over five years is anticipated for this programme, although this is dependent on the number of eligible families the Council is actively working and making progress with. The report highlights the slow progress being made with setting families up on the programme and, for some of the families that have been set up, concerns are raised that some of the established targets for sustained and significant progress may not be consistent with the agreed Outcomes Plan. All of this may place at risk the level of funding the Council will receive

School Budget Share audits. So far during the year, there were two schools where a limited assurance audit opinion was provided. The audits of school budget share cover a broad range of areas including governance, expenditure, income, assets and information. Reports are provided to the Headteacher and the Chair of Governors for action.

**Further details of ‘Limited Assurance’ Audit Opinions at draft stage in the
previous progress report (June 2016)**

XC 1602 - Agency staff and consultants – September 2016. Approval of new agency worker engagements and of extensions to existing engagements should

be evidenced on Vacancy Control Decision Records (VCDRs). Our testing identified a low level of compliance with these requirements. There is an opportunity to make use of the reporting capabilities of the managed service provider's system as a basis for improvement. Evidence to demonstrate compliance with the council's procurement regulations was not available in the case of some consultancy engagements.

CFCS 1612 – External Placements – May 2016. The key issue in this report was that non-framework providers were not procured in accordance with Financial Regulations, and not subject to a legal agreement. Recommendations were also raised regarding the authorisation of individual placement agreements and subsequent checking of charges against those agreements.