















Assurance Improvement Plan – RAG-Rated Delivery Tracker (2026/27)

-  **Green** - On track/complete
-  **Amber** - In progress / requires coordination
-  **Red** - Not started / needs further development

| Action | Description | Lead | Timeline | Status (RAG) |
|---|---|---------------------------|------------------|--|
| Clearer assurance reporting | | | | |
| Quarterly Assurance Digest | To produce a summary of key audit findings, themes, risks, and overdue actions. | CIA (IJB) | Start Q1 2026/27 |  (Drafting required) |
| Assurance-to-Risk Mapping | Map all audit activity to strategic risks and Directions. | CIA (IJB) and Risk Owners | Q2 2026/27 |  |
| Assurance Dashboard | To create a visual dashboard for quarterly reporting. | CIA (IJB) with DGC input | Q2 2026/27 |  |
| Stronger Chair engagement | | | | |
| Meetings with Chairs | Pre-committee meetings with each Chair. | CIA (IJB) | Quarterly |  |
| Annual Joint Session with all Audit Committee Chairs | Session with Chairs of NHS, Council & IJB Audit Committees. | CIAs and Committee Chairs | Q1 2026/27 |  |
| Roles and expectations briefing for Chairs | Produce a guidance note outlining roles in IJB assurance framework. | CIA (IJB) | Q1 2026/27 |  |
| Coordination across NHS and Council Internal Audit functions | | | | |
| Monthly CIA-to-CIA coordination meetings | Structured agenda covering shared risks, audit coverage, and assurance gaps. | CIAs IJB/NHS and Council | Quarterly |  (Already occurring informally) |
| Joint Audit Projects for 2026/27 | Identify 1–2 shared areas for joint review. | CIAs IJB/NHS and Council | Q2 2026/27 |  |
| Annual Assurance Statement | Short document summarising cross-partnership themes. | CIA (IJB) | Q4 2026/27 |  |
| Follow-up and action management | | | | |
| IJB-focussed follow-up tracker | A combined NHS and Council tracker for IJB-relevant actions. | CIA (IJB) | Q1 2026/27 |  |
| Risk-based audit planning | | | | |
| Risk-based Audit Planning | Use updated risk registers to shape the annual Audit Plan. | CIA (IJB) | Q3 2025/26 |  |

| Action | Description | Lead | Timeline | Status (RAG) |
|---|---|-----------|---------------|--------------|
| Building assurance skills and confidence | | | | |
| Development Sessions for Committee Members | Provide training (audit ratings, assurance levels, questioning skills). | CIA (IJB) | Q2–Q3 2026/27 | ● |
| “Benchmarking” with other IJBs | Compare approaches with 3 to 4 peer IJBs. | CIA (IJB) | Q3 2026/27 | ● |
| Annual Assurance Maturity Review | Conduct an annual review of assurance maturity and track improvements. | CIA (IJB) | Q4 annually | ● |