

**Audit & Assurance Committee Chair’s Highlight Report to Council of Governors**

<b>Subject:</b>	Audit & Assurance Committee (AAC) Report	<b>Date:</b> 9 <sup>th</sup> August 2022
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Graham Ward – AAC Chair	
<b>Approved By:</b>		
<b>Presented By:</b>	Graham Ward – AAC Chair	
<b>Purpose</b>		
To provide Assurance to the Council of Governors regarding the activities of the Audit Assurance Committee.		<b>Assurance</b>
The Committee met on 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2022, the meeting was quorate		

<b>Matters of Concern or Key Risks to Escalate</b>	<b>Major Actions Commissioned / Work Underway</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <u>Internal Audit</u> – Implementation of internal audit recommendations is still problematic, though there are early signs of improvement.</li> <li>▪ <u>Internal Audit Limited Assurance Report (Contract Management)</u> - The report and actions progress were presented by the Strategic Head of Procurement. The Committee took assurance from the planned actions against the three recommendations and the progress being made and will continue to monitor action implementation.</li> <li>▪ <u>Risk Committee</u> – fragile corporate services had been highlighted as a new risk and a report is to be presented to Board.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <u>Non-Clinical Policies</u> – there are still a number of these that are out of date across all executive directors and as a priority these need reviewing, updating as appropriate and approving. Executive directors will be asked to attend the next Audit Committee with an update on progress where still outstanding.</li> </ul>
<b>Positive Assurances to Provide</b>	<b>Decisions Made</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <u>Counter Fraud</u> – Actions are in place to support maintaining all 14 measures of the Functional Standard Requirement rated as Green for 2022/23.</li> <li>▪ <u>Internal Audit</u> – 360 Assurance are developing a Divisional Governance Toolkit which will be rolled out across all divisions to measure and help further develop their governance processes</li> </ul>	

- External Audit – KPMG presented the final External Audit Annual Report which will now be published on our website.
- Procurement – the Strategic Head of Procurement presented the annual procurement report which highlighted the strength of the department and the value it continues to deliver to the Trust.
- Clinical Audit – the annual report (which has also been presented to Quality Committee) was tabled. While a lot of disruption to reports has happened due to Covid good progress was evidenced. It was agreed that future reports would highlight progress from the previous years.

**Comments on Effectiveness of the Meeting**

- All papers were of a high quality and clear which helped the meeting run smoothly.