

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

Subject:	Audit & Assurance Committee (AAC) Report	Date: 9 th May 2023
Prepared By:	Graham Ward – AAC Chair	
Approved By:		
Presented By:	Graham Ward – AAC Chair	
Purpose		
	Assurance	

Matters of Concern or Key Risks to Escalate	Major Actions Commissioned / Work Underway
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>Internal Audit</u> – draft Head of Internal Audit Opinion - 360 Assurance was unable to provide a draft opinion due to 3 core reviews still in progress. Within the overall opinion the BAF has significant assurance, and the implementation of audit recommendations is again only moderate assurance as the first time implementation rate at 69% (last year 64%) is below the threshold of 75% for significant assurance. ▪ <u>Non-Clinical Policies</u> – While great progress has been made there are a small number of outstanding overdue policies for which no progress had been reported. The Committee Chair agreed to write to the executive directors responsible. ▪ <u>Quality Committee Internal Control Issue</u> – concerns were raised regarding the indirect impacts of the Industrial Action (projects halted and meetings cancelled). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>Non-Clinical Policies</u> – Committee Chair to email executive directors re outstanding overdue policies.

Positive Assurances to Provide	Decisions Made
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>HFMA Sustainability Improvement Plan</u> – actions established against all 12 areas (out of 72) where improvement is required. Timescales and responsible officer for each to be finalised and then implementation will be tracked in the same way as an internal audit recommendation. ▪ <u>Draft Annual Accounts</u> – These were presented and noted that they were completed a week ahead of schedule. ▪ <u>Draft Annual Report and Quality Account</u> – Good progress with each of these reports was noted, together with clear plans to finalise. ▪ <u>Conflict of Interest Breaches</u> – It was noted that no breaches had been recorded for 2022/23. 	
Comments on Effectiveness of the Meeting	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All papers were of a high quality and clear which helped the meeting run smoothly. 	