

Board of Directors Meeting in Public

Subject:	Report of the Audit and Assurance Committee	Date: 26 th April		
Prepared By:	Shirley A Higginbotham, Head of Corporate Affairs and Company Secretary			
Approved By:	Graham Ward, NED, Acting Chair of Audit and Assurance Committee			
Presented By:	Graham Ward, NED, Acting Chair of Audit and Assurance Committee			
Purpose				
The Audit and Assurance Committee met on 20 th April 2018. This paper informs members of the significant matters agreed by the Committee for reporting to the Board of Directors:		Approval		
		Assurance	x	
		Update		
		Consider		
Strategic Objectives				
To provide outstanding care to our patients	To support each other to do a great job	To inspire excellence	To get the most from our resources	To play a leading role in transforming health and care services
x	x	x	x	x
Overall Level of Assurance				
	Significant	Sufficient	Limited	None
		x		
Risks/Issues				
Financial	The Audit and Assurance Committee is responsible for ensuring the system of internal control is robust and effective in order to provide high quality, value for money services to patients and provide a safe environment for staff. Safeguarding the reputation of the Trust			
Patient Impact				
Staff Impact				
Services				
Reputational				
Committees/groups where this item has been presented before				
N/A				
Executive Summary				
<p>The Board of Directors is asked to accept the content of the Report and note the items highlighted below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Head of Internal Audit opinion – Significant Assurance • Approval of the Draft Annual Report (including Annual Governance Statement) for submission to External Auditors • Approval of Draft Quality Account for submission to External Auditors • Approval of Draft Accounts for submission to External Auditors • Approval of the change to the PFI accounting policy <p>The Audit and Assurance Committee met on 15th March 2018. The meeting was quorate, the Minutes approved and there were no outstanding actions. There were no declarations of interest.</p> <p>Graham Ward, Acting Chair expressed thanks to Ray Dawson for his excellent chairmanship of the Committee for almost five years and extended the condolences of the committee to Ray's family</p> <p>The following items were presented and discussed:</p> <p><u>Draft Head of Internal Audit Opinion</u></p> <p>Committee received the report from 360 Assurance who reported Significant Assurance, this was a draft opinion, however the expectation was this wouldn't change and would be the final opinion.</p>				

Committee noted this was the same opinion as 2016/17 and demonstrated sustainability of the improvements implemented. Committee also noted the improvements in responses to recommendations.

Draft Annual Report (including Annual Governance Statement)

Committee received the report and were informed this would be submitted to External auditors on 20th April, with a meeting scheduled between the Head of Corporate Affairs & Company Secretary and external audit on Friday 4th May to discuss. Committee members were asked to send any comments/amendments to the Head of Corporate Affairs & Company Secretary prior to this meeting for the report to be amended.

Committee approved for submission to the external auditors

Draft Quality Account

Committee receive the report and were informed a check against the standards would be completed on Monday 23rd April prior to submission to external auditors. The Quality Account would be presented to the Quality Committee on 16th May 2018 for final approval, prior to submission to Board. The report will also be circulated to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the CCG. The CCG had stated they would not be submitting the report to their governing body and the committee expressed disappointment with this. Healthwatch had been contacted for comment, but nothing had been received to date.

360 Assurance will check if a follow up to the 4 hour standard had been completed.

Committee approved for submission to the external auditors

Draft Annual Accounts

Committee received a detailed presentation with regard to the PFI debt repayment and informed committee the accounts would be restated to reflect the changes prior to submission to external auditors. The committee were also requested to approve the change to the PFI accounting policy

Committee approved the draft accounts, once restated, to the external auditors

Committee approved the change to the PFI accounting policy

Internal Audit Report – Limited Assurance

Patient Safety Alert System – Limited Assurance,

Committee received the report. The Director of Governance and Quality Improvement explained to committee the reasons for not accepting all of the recommendations and 360 Assurance confirmed that as one of the recommendations was risk rated low and one advisory this was not an issue. The audit will be followed up during 2018/19. Committee were reassured by the Director of Governance and Quality Improvement the outstanding actions would be implemented and the upcoming review of the Patient Safety Alert System by CQC would provide triangulation to committee. Committee were informed of the governance process for Patient Safety Alerts, Risk committee receives a report 6 monthly and PSQG monitor progress and implementation which is reported to Board via the Quality Committee.

Losses and Special Payments

Committee queried the duplicate payment indicated on the report and received assurance systems had now changed to ensure this couldn't happen again as it was incorporated into the IR 35 process.

The committee approved the report