

Board of Directors - Public

Subject:	Report of the Audit and Assurance Committee	Date: 17 th March 2017		
Prepared By:	Shirley A Clarke, Head of Corporate Affairs and Company Secretary			
Approved By:	Ray Dawson, NED, Chair of Audit and Assurance Committee			
Presented By:	Ray Dawson, NED, Chair of Audit and Assurance Committee			
Purpose				
The Audit and Assurance Committee met on 16 th March 2017. This paper informs members of the significant matters agreed by the Committee for reporting to the Board of Directors:			Decision	
			Approval	
			Assurance	X
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				
Annual Report and Accounts				
<p>The committee received an update with regard to the production of the Annual Report and Accounts and Quality Account.</p> <p>Internal audit informed committee they were in the process of developing their opinion and hoped to be in a position to report a significant opinion, further work was being undertaken and this would be confirmed prior to the board meeting.</p> <p>There is no presumption of going concern status and therefore Directors must decide each year whether or not it is appropriate for the organisation to prepare its accounts on the going concern basis, taking into account best estimates of future activity and cash flows.</p> <p>An assessment has been undertaken and presented to committee which confirms that the directors have a reasonable expectation that the NHS foundation trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the accounts.</p>				

Information Governance Update

Committee received a report regarding the IG self-assessment toolkit, The overall compliance is 'green satisfactory' with an initial score of 75%. This is due to increase as standards leads upload further information over the next few weeks, the expectation is the score will increase to 80% by the deadline for submission on 31st March 2017.

Registers of Interests

The Declaration of Interests, Gifts and Donations and Hospitality Registers were received by the committee. Committee noted the updates since the last meeting and registered concern regarding the number of declarations made. External audit will be providing evidence of best practice to support the Trust in obtaining further declarations.

Valuation VAT treatment

The Committee received a report regarding whether it remains appropriate to include VAT in valuations relating to our PFI Estate and to highlight the changes associated with its removal. The committee approved: A change in valuation methodology to exclude VAT where appropriate from qualifying PFI assets

Scheme of Delegation Amendments

Committee approved the amendments to the Scheme of Delegation

Review of Policies

It was agreed by committee to review the policies for Single Tender Waivers and Losses and Special Payments to ensure they were still fit for purpose.

Committee Effectiveness Self-Assessment Action Plan

Committee approved the actions arising from the Committee effectiveness self-assessment.