

Audit and Assurance Committee Chair's Highlight Report to Council of Governors

Subject:	Audit and Assurance Committee	Date:	16 th January 2025
Prepared By:	Manjeet Gill – Chair of Audit and Assurance Committee		
Approved By:	Manjeet Gill – Chair of Audit and Assurance Committee		
Presented By:	Manjeet Gill – Chair of Audit and Assurance Committee		
Purpose:			
		Assurance	Substantial Assurance

Matters of Concern or Key Risks Escalated for Noting / Action	Major Actions Commissioned / Work Underway
Positive Assurance by management on the proposed actions for the Mental Capacity Act and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (Limited Assurance Audit Report). However, the Committee questioned the level of ongoing and visible assurance to Board considering the ongoing risks to patients and Trust.	<p>Claire Page of 360 Internal Audit, reviewing governance in terms of our role in the ICS and system working.</p> <p>Further system wide audits, including Quality Impact Assessments. Clarity to be sought on whether the system-wide Quality Impact Assessment Group will report into SFH Quality Committee.</p> <p>Planning for 2025/26 Internal Audit underway with draft programme to be presented to March 2025 Committee for approval.</p> <p>Fire Safety Audit progressing and report by end of January.</p> <p>Review of Committee's Annual Workplan to enhance the reporting around losses and special payments to include focus on specific losses on a rolling basis such as pharmacy, workforce and bad debt write-off.</p>

Positive Assurances to Provide	Decisions Made <i>(include BAF review outcomes)</i>
<p>Substantial Assurance for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Internal Audit Progress report, 3 reviews in progress. - Register of Interests with a request to be made to those non-compliant to explain reason; - Progress with outstanding Internal Audit Actions (70% compliance on first follow-up); - Timely reviews of Non-Clinical Policies; - Single Tender Waivers (including positive results and impact of the No Purchase Order No Pay process); - Losses and Special Payment reports. <p>Positive Assurance on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pharmacy waste and actions taken. - External audit progress report and note of change in system manager. - Annual Reports (including AGS), together with the Annual Accounts timetable and plan. - Risk Committee quadrant report. - No issues of internal controls were shared from the Board Sub-Committees. 	<p>Escalate the MCA and DOLS assurance concerns to Board and to consider whether reporting and tracking should be via the Safeguarding Report to Quality Committee.</p> <p>Approved the Committee Maturity Assessment Action Plan</p> <p>Approved the Committee Effectiveness Self-Assessment</p> <p>Agreed that regular reports on pharmacy waste and other specific items be presented as part of the regular losses report on a rolling basis.</p>
Comments on effectiveness of the meeting	
Items recommended for consideration by other Committees	
Progress with Actions	
<p>Number of actions considered at the meeting - 9</p> <p>Number of actions closed at the meeting – 5</p> <p>Number of actions carried forward – 4 (3 not yet due)</p> <p>Any concerns with progress of actions – No</p>	

Note: this report does not require a cover sheet due to sufficient information provided.