

Audit and Assurance Committee Chair's Highlight Report to Board

Subject:	Audit and Assurance Committee	Date:	20 th March 2025
Prepared By:	Andrew Rose–Britton, Chair of Audit and Assurance Committee		
Approved By:	Manjeet Gill		
Presented By:	Manjeet Gill		
Purpose:			

Matters of Concern or Key Risks Escalated for Noting / Action	Major Actions Commissioned / Work Underway
<p>In the context of a letter received from the CEO of the ICS describing the current uncertainty, including the potential risk of being unable to meet its statutory duties, the need for clarity on the roles of ICSs is required.</p> <p>External Audit Plan 2024/25 - one significant risk identified about sustainability. This potential weakness may be flagged but needs to be viewed in the current overall context of the NHS. KPMG is working through.</p> <p>Single Tender Waivers - three challenges were raised: one about the £800K value of STWs; the second about mitigating urgent requests and the third highlighting the challenges of both the ADU and print contracts, noting the opportunities being worked on to address them.</p>	<p>A System wide Internal Audit review of Governance is underway with the report to be circulated when complete.</p> <p>Finance committee members to be invited to the Extraordinary AAC meeting on 19th June 2025 (and annually thereafter) at which the ARAC will be considered.</p> <p>One Internal Control issue highlighted from the Finance Committee in relation to a PFI accounting of the transition from IAS 17 to UK GAAP and IFRS 16.</p> <p>Requirement to seek a new Counter Fraud Champion, ideally with a clinical background</p> <p>Include post-investment reviews in the scope of the Project/ Business case management review</p> <p>Losses and Special Payments – More information being sought about Newark Theatres drug write-offs.</p>
Positive Assurances to Provide	Decisions Made (include BAF review outcomes)
<p>Annual Counter Fraud Progress Report.</p> <p>Internal Audit Progress Report.</p> <p>Preparation of the Quality Account is on track.</p> <p>Two Internal Audit Reports had been submitted to Board Sub-Committees since the last meeting, both providing Substantial assurance.</p> <p>External Audit Plan 2024/25 received and approved.</p>	<p>Annual Counter Fraud Plan approved subject to inclusion of the CF Functional Standard.</p> <p>Approval of the Annual Internal Audit Plan 2025/26 (noting the Charter and compliance with Global IA standards).</p> <p>External Audit Plan 2024/2025.</p> <p>Stock Management Policy approved.</p> <p>Single Tender Waivers agreed.</p> <p>Losses and Special Payments approved.</p>

<p>Outstanding Internal Audit recommendations - current first follow up implementation rate of 72%.</p> <p>Risk Committee Highlight Report.</p> <p>Summary of stocktake process noted.</p> <p>Going Concern Assessment received along with confirmation there is a reasonable expectation that the Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and so will continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the accounts.</p> <p>Register of Interests Report with only 14 declarations outstanding.</p> <p>Non-Clinical Policies Report noted.</p> <p>Drafting of the Trust Annual Report and AGS underway.</p>	<p>Standing Orders approved.</p> <p>Committee Maturity Assessment Action Plan agreed.</p> <p>Committee Terms of Reference approved following the annual review.</p> <p>Updates to the Committee Workplan approved following its annual review and the addition of ad hoc reports on losses and special payments.</p> <p>Committee Annual Report to Board of Directors approved subject to final sign off by the Committee Chair.</p>
<p>Comments on effectiveness of the meeting</p> <p>Some confusion at the start of the meeting. Thereafter a good discussion of agenda items. Reports of a high standard. A comfort break will be scheduled at future meetings.</p>	
<p>Items recommended for consideration by other Committees</p> <p>meeting of Audit Committee Finance Committee and in June 2025 to agree the end of year accounts can be recommended to the Board for approval .</p>	