

Report to:	Public Board of Directors	Agenda item:	20
Date of Meeting:	30 January 2018		

Title of Report:	Audit Committee Update Report
Status:	For Discussion
Sponsor:	Jeremy Boss, Non-Executive Director & Chair of the Audit Committee
Author:	Xavier Bell, Board Secretary
Appendices	

Purpose

This report summarises the discussions, recommendations and approvals made by the Audit Committee on 6 December 2018, to provide the Board with an update of the Committee's activities.

Background

The Audit Committee holds delegated responsibility from the Board of Directors, this report provides evidence to satisfy the Board that the tasks required to meet those responsibilities are being carried out.

Business Undertaken

Board Assurance Framework

The Committee reviewed the Board Assurance Framework (BAF) and concluded that it remained an effective monitoring tool for strategic risks. It was noted that a new risk relating to Brexit had been agreed by the Board and added to the BAF. A number of updates were requested to reflect recent Executive appointments on the Board.

Debtor & Creditor Analysis

The Committee received an update on debtor and creditor analysis as at 31 October 2018. Key points discussed included:

- the ongoing issues with regards to Maternity Pathway payments between providers;
- the outstanding debt with Virgin Care, The Committee noted the plans to resolve the issue; and
- Increasing time taken to agree Non-Contracted Activity with out of area commissioners.

Audit Recommendations

An update on outstanding audit recommendations was provided by the Head of Financial Services. The list of outstanding actions was substantially reduced following a period of intense focus on updating the tracking spreadsheet. The Committee felt that the tracker now reflected a more up-to-date position, and would be reviewed by all assurance committees in the new year to ensure that actions remained on track.

Author : Xavier Bell, Board of Directors' Secretary	Date: 20 December 2018
Document Approved by: Jeremy Boss, Non-Executive Director	Version: 1
Agenda Item: 20	Page 1 of 2

Internal/External Auditor updates

The Trust's external auditors (Deloitte) presented the draft plan for the year-end audit. This was approved by the Committee.

The Trust's internal auditors (KPMG) presented the outcomes of three internal audits:

- Estates compliance;
- Winter resilience;
- Consultant Job-planning; and
- Core Financial Services.

The Committee accepted and approved the reports and agreed that the recommendations should be added to, and tracked via, the Audit action tracker.

Key Risks and their impact on the Organisation

The Committee identified the following risks:

- There is a gap in the Director of Estates & Facilities role from April 2019, and other senior management gaps in that department. It was agreed that this risk would be brought to the attention of the Board for further discussion;
- The ongoing uncertainties around Brexit represent a risk to the Trust and to its patients. The Committee noted that the Trust is taking steps to understand and where possible, mitigate, the risks associated with Brexit.

Key Decisions

The Committee accepted the internal audit reports presented by KPMG, and approved the Board Assurance Framework.

Exceptions and Challenges

There were no specific exceptions or challenges noted.

Governance and Other Business

There were no governance or other business items identified.

Future Business

- Internal Audit Reports on Learning from Deaths will be presented at the May 2019 Audit Committee;
- The internal Audit Plan for 2019/20 will be presented at the February 2019 Audit Committee, together with the interim external audit report for 2018/19.

Recommendations

The Board is asked to note this report.