

Audit Committee Report

Trust Board	Item: 20
Date: 25th September 2019	Enclosure: Q
Purpose of the Report: To report to the Trust Board on the meeting of the Audit Committee held on 19 th September 2019.	
FOR: Information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Assurance <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion and input <input type="checkbox"/> Decision/approval <input type="checkbox"/>	
Sponsor (Non-Executive Lead):	Joan Mulcahy, NED, Audit Committee Chair
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Risk Implications – Link to Assurance Framework or Corporate Risk Register:	
Link to Relevant Corporate Objective:	All
Document Previously Considered By:	N/A
Link to Relevant CQC Domain: Safe <input type="checkbox"/> Effective <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caring <input type="checkbox"/> Responsive <input type="checkbox"/> Well Led <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Recommendations: The Board is asked to note the content of the report.	

Audit Committee Report

The Audit Committee met on 19th September 2019 and the meeting was attended by the internal and external auditors.

Statutory & Mandatory Training: The Committee received assurance that the processes put in place with the introduction of the ESR system had had a positive impact on compliance rates.

Counter Fraud: A progress report was received and discussion took place on how the Counter Fraud's messages are communicated to staff.

Internal Audit: The Committee received a progress report and reviewed the recommendation tracker showing progress on recommendations from earlier reports. A report on Medical Rostering gave significant assurance with minor improvement opportunities and the Committee suggested that learning from implementation of this system should be considered when commencing other projects. Field work on reports on the Emergency Care Data Set and Estates Compliance was complete and the reports would be received at the next meeting.

External Audit: The Committee received a progress report and sector update. Members had been interested to read the elements relating to achieving a Digital NHS.

Clinical Audit: The Committee received quarterly reports on the Clinical Audit Programme for Q4 2018/19 and Q1 2019/20. Detail was provided on clinical audits with performance rated high or extreme risk. Analysis had been carried out on the number of clinical audits which had data/information by the service line as the main subject relevant to the risk; 16% (n10) in Q4 and 7% (n4) in Q1. The Committee suggested that data/information recording be returned to at a future meeting. The list of priority 'must do' Clinical Audit Projects for 2019/20 was also noted.

Board Assurance Framework: The BAF for month 5 (August) was reviewed, noting that financial sustainability was now one of the top risks on the Trust Risk Register. The impact of pressure from growth in non-elective attendances was noted across the majority of the breakthrough objectives.

Trust Risk Register: The Committee reviewed the register dated 1st September 2019, noting that the Patient Safety & Risk Management Committee oversees the risk management process to ensure appropriate mitigations are in place and under way to ensure patient and staff safety. A number of risks were discussed in detail and the Committee agreed that the new format of presentation of the report was effective.

Risk Management Strategy and associated policy: A revised policy for risk identification, assessment and registration was ratified. The Risk Management Strategy will be recommended for approval by the Trust Board in November 2019, and was agreed subject to clarification of the Board's responsibilities overall.

Standing Orders, Standing Financial Instructions and Scheme of Delegation: Amendments were agreed and these will be recommended for approval by the Trust Board in November 2019.

Governance of contract procurement and management - case study: The Committee reviewed the procurement and management of the patient transport policy to understand the governance of contract approvals and subsequent oversight of performance. The Committee was of the view that integration would require a greater number of contractual agreements and the learning from this exercise had been useful.

Debt write off/use of waivers/Losses and Special Payments/Goods Received Not Invoiced/Out of Date Policies/External Agency Reviews: reports on these matters were received and content noted.

There were no matters to discuss with the auditors in private session of the Committee.