

Audit Committee Report

Trust Board	Item: 16
Date: 24th March 2021	Enclosure: L
Purpose of the Report: To report to the Trust Board on the meeting of the Audit Committee held on 17 th March 2021.	
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):	Damien Régent, 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve the Committee terms of reference following annual review; • Note the content of the report. 	

Audit Committee Report

The Audit Committee met on 17th March 2021 and the meeting was attended by the internal and external auditors.

Internal Audit: KPMG presented a Digital Strategy Review. The Committee concluded that this is a complex area on a number of fronts: financial, workforce, leadership and system working; and developing the strategy would be both exciting and challenging due to its complexity. The Board would commit time to develop its thinking on digitalisation at a Board Development session with support from NHSI, currently scheduled for June 2021. The Committee received a progress report and reviewed the recommendation tracker showing progress on recommendations from earlier reports. The principal area for discussion was progress with achievement of the Estates compliance recommendations.

Counter Fraud: A progress report for the current year was discussed. The Committee received details of the latest case referrals. The Committee received assurance on the management of cases of employees contracted to work for more than one NHS organisation at the same time.

External Audit: The Committee received progress reports on preparation of the Annual Report and Financial Statements for 2020-21 from management and from Grant Thornton. It was noted that annual leave accrual would feature in this year's accounts due to work patterns during the pandemic.

Board Assurance Framework and Trust Risk Register: The Committee noted that the Gold/Silver Command structure for management of the Covid-19 pandemic remained in place seven days/week but had reduced in hours in response to reducing numbers of Covid-19 patients within the Hospital. Additions had been made to the report giving an overview of risk within the Trust to give the Committee more granularity on risk themes and a heat map of the top risks. The Committee welcomed this change and looked forward to further development of this report. It was confirmed that risks added to the Trust Risk Register were in real time, and that the route of approval through the governance structure was a live management process.

Committee Terms of Reference: The Committee reviewed the terms of reference - minor amendments had been proposed - and recommended the Trust Board to approve them (attached).

Use of waivers/Losses and Special Payments/Breaches of SOs and SFIs/Policies & Procedures Compliance/External Agency Reviews: reports on these standing items were received and content noted.

FIC and QAC Updates: Matters of interest to the Audit Committee that had been discussed at FIC and QAC were noted.

Farewell: this was the last meeting for the Director of Corporate Governance and the Committee expressed thanks for her support to the Committee, the Non-Executive Directors and the Trust.