

AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

Trust Board (Public)	Item: 16
Date: 25 May 2022	Enclosure: L
Purpose of the Report: To report to the Trust Board on the meeting of the Audit Committee held on 16 th March 2022.	
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 type="checkbox"/> Caring <input type="checkbox"/> Responsive <input type="checkbox"/> Well Led <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Recommendations: The Board is asked to note the report.	

Audit Committee Report

The Audit Committee met on 16th March 2022. The meeting was attended by the internal and external auditors and counter fraud.

Internal Audit: The Committee reviewed the recommendation tracker showing progress on actions from earlier internal audit reviews. The Committee noted the significant assurance with minor improvements required rating for the review of accounts receivable and payable.

The Committee noted a draft annual report and head of internal audit opinion. While the final draft would be received in June, it was anticipated that the Trust would be rated with an overall opinion of significant assurance with minor improvements.

Counter Fraud Report: The Committee received a progress report, and noted active referrals. The Committee also received a review on sickness absence management assignment. A key finding related to tighter controls on the retention of documentation when managing staff sickness and maintaining robust audit trails.

External Audit Findings Report: The Committee received the External Auditor's Plan 2022/23

Board Assurance Framework (BAF): The Committee noted that an updated version of the BAF was under development, however the Trust strategic objectives needed to be produced in order to commence the work designing a new BAF. The Trust continued to produce a BAF-like risk register which presented the high-level risks that the Trust was managing, which was presented to the Audit Committee.

Trust Risk Register (risks rated 12-25): The Committee noted the risk register report. It was noted the Trust had re-established stand-alone risk management meetings. The Committee considered the Covid-19 risk register and decided it only needed to review those already on the high-level risk register.

IM&T Top 10 Risks: The Director of IM&T presented his department's top 10 risks, and the Committee discussed the management of them. The Committee noted that as a result of the escalating situation in Ukraine, the National Cyber Security Service had highlighted four key areas that required immediate action, which the Trust was responding to.

Covid-19 Public Enquiry: The Committee received an update report on development of the Covid-19 Public Enquiry.

IFRS16 Update/Use of waivers/Losses and Special Payments/Review Proposed Changes to Accounting Policies/Better Payment Practice Code/Breaches of SOs and SFIs/Policies & Procedures Compliance/External Agency Reviews/FIC and QAC: reports on these standing items were received and content noted.