

Audit Committee Report

Trust Board	Item: 16
Date: 28 July 2021	Enclosure: L
Purpose of the Report: To report to the Trust Board on the meeting of the Audit Committee held on 17 th June 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
Author:	Sam Armstrong, Director of Corporate Affairs and Trust Secretary
Author Contact Details:	samuel.armstrong@nhs.net
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 17th June 2021. The meeting was attended by the internal and external auditors and counter fraud.

Matters Arising – Theatre Utilisation Update: The Committee noted that a further audit had been undertaken by KPMG and the quality of data was much improved. Actions from the audit regarding focusing on start times and restoring the elective bed base had been addressed. The Getting it Right First Time (GIRFT) principles in theatre scheduling had now been applied.

Internal Audit: The Committee received a progress report and reviewed the recommendation tracker showing progress on recommendations from earlier reports. There had been a significant improvement in overdue management actions since March 2022. The Committee noted the ‘significant assurance with minor improvement opportunities’ outcome from the DSP Toolkit review.

It was noted that the Contract Management review had been deferred and that both the Consultant Job Planning review and SWL Recruitment Hub review had not been completed for this meeting and would be presented to the Committee in September.

Internal Audit Plan and Local Counter Fraud Specialist Plan 2022/23: the Committee received the plans, which after consideration were approved.

Counter Fraud Reports: The Committee received the progress report, which was noted.

The Committee received a positive report for the review of the Trust’s management of conflicts of interest.

The Counter Fraud Annual Report was presented. It was noted that the NHS Counter Fraud Authority Compliance overall rating was green, however an action plan had been agreed to improve the standards that were amber rated.

Internal Audit Annual Report and Head of Internal Audit Opinion: The Committee received the report, which listed all internal audit reviews and provided an overall opinion of “significant assurance with minor improvements required”. KPMG were comfortable that the Trust continued to perform effectively in the key areas of core financial systems, risk, governance and data.

External Audit Findings 2021/22: The Committee reviewed the report. The unprecedented pressures on the finance team were recognised. The Committee noted the Value for Money report and acknowledged the recommendations within it. The auditor noted strong internal controls at the Trust.

The auditors and Trust would do everything possible to ensure they could submit the annual report and accounts on time by midday 22nd June 2022.

Letter of Representation: The Audit Committee approved the Letter of Management Representation.

Trust Annual Reports and Accounts: The Committee, under delegated authority by the Board, approved the annual report and accounts subject to final amendments required by the auditor, for submission.

The Committee also approved the Quality Accounts, under delegated authority by the Board.

The Committee also approved, under delegated authority by the Board, the annual self-certification declarations for Foundation Trust licence conditions FT 4(8).

Board Assurance Framework (BAF): The Committee received the draft BAF and high level risk report as a work in progress. Once the joint objectives for both KHFT and HRCH were approved, the BAF would be ready to be presented as a confirmed document.

Audit Committee Terms of Reference: The Committee approved its terms of reference for commending to the Board.

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