



Trust Board				7 June 2012	
Title	Annual Governance Statement			Paper Ref	2.2 (part of Annual Accounts)
PURPOSE (X)		Information		Strategic Objective	Business Plan Objective
Approval	X	Decision			
Assurance		Discussion		All	All
Purpose of the paper	The purpose of this paper is to present the Annual Governance Statement for financial year 2011/12.				
Recommendation	It is recommended that the Trust Board receives and accepts the Annual Governance Statement 2011/12.				
Author	David Whiting, Chief Executive		Accountable Director:	David Whiting, Chief Executive	
RISK ASSESSMENT				Yes	No
Changes to the Corporate Risk Register and/or Board Assurance Framework					X
Resource Implications					X
Legal implications					X
ASSURANCE/COMPLIANCE					
CQC Registration Outcome(s)	Auditors' Local Evaluation		NHSLA Risk Management Standards for Ambulance Trusts		
N/A	N/A		N/A		

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to present the Annual Governance Statement for financial year 2011/12.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The NHS Chief Executive, in his capacity as Accounting Officer for the NHS in the Department of Health, requires the Trust's Accountable Officer to provide assurance about the stewardship of our organisation.
- 2.2 Assurance is provided for 2011/12, through the completion of an Annual Governance Statement by the Trust's Chief Executive Officer.
- 2.3 The Annual Governance Statement records the stewardship of the organisation to supplement the accounts. It gives a sense of how successfully the Trust has coped with the challenges it faced and of how vulnerable the Trust's performance is or might be. This statement draws together position statements and evidence on governance, risk management and internal control.
- 2.4 The Annual Governance Statement refers to the Board's committee structure; the Board's performance, including an assessment of its own effectiveness; and to how the Board ensures that required standards have been achieved.
- 2.5 Section 5.11 of the Annual Governance Statement provides a Head of Internal Audit opinion, which describes an overall opinion of significant assurance.
- 2.6 The Annual Governance Statement has been completed taking account of the guidance provided by NHS Chief Financial Controller to ensure compliance with Treasury guidance and to ensure that the NHS Chief Executive, in his capacity as Accounting Officer for the NHS in the Department of Health, is able to draw the assurance he needs to sign an overarching NHS governance statement. This will be drawn on and referred to in the overall governance statement signed by the Principal Accounting Officer, for the Department of Health's Annual Report and Accounts 2011-12.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Trust Board receives and accepts the Annual Governance Statement 2011/12.

4. ATTACHMENTS

- 4.1 Annual Governance Statement 2011/12.