



Trust Board Meeting				31 July 2012	
Title	Audit Committee Report			Paper Ref	8.2
PURPOSE (X)	Information		Strategic Objective	Business Plan Objective	
Approval	Decision				
Assurance	√	Discussion	High Performing	F1 – high quality financial governance	
Purpose of the paper	The purpose of the paper is to inform the Trust Board regarding the activities of the Audit Committee.				
Recommendation	The Yorkshire Ambulance Trust Board has sufficient assurance on the Trust's Audit Committee performance.				
Author	Richard Ford, Financial Controller	Accountable Director:	Rod Barnes, Director of Finance & Performance		
RISK ASSESSMENT				Yes	No
Changes to the Corporate Risk Register and/or Board Assurance Framework					√
Resource Implications					√
Legal implications					√
ASSURANCE/COMPLIANCE					
CQC Registration Outcome(s)	Auditors' Local Evaluation		NHSLA Risk Management Standards for Ambulance Trusts		
26 Financial Position	Financial reporting Financial Management Financial Standing Internal control Value for Money		Responding to External Recommendations Specific to the Organisation		

SUMMARY REPORT FROM THE AUDIT COMMITTEE 7 JUNE 2012

1 PURPOSE/AIM

- 1.1 To give the Board assurance that the Audit Committee is meeting the obligations set down in its terms of reference.

2 SUMMARY REPORT FROM THE AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING

Audit Committee Assurance

- 2.1. The Board Assurance Framework (BAF) was presented and the Executive Director of Standards & Compliance highlighted that the Board Development Day had identified a number of refinements to risk profiles; these would be updated in the BAF and the Integrated Business Plan.
- 2.2. The Annual Governance Statement was presented by the Chief Executive and highlighted ; how previous changes to Board Committee structures were impacting now they were embedded and were performing; how operational risks had been mitigated and how this had supported improved response times; that the Trust were fully compliant with essential CQC standards. This report was accepted by Committee.
- 2.3. The Final Draft of the Annual Report was presented; this had been reviewed by External Audit to ensure consistency with Financial Disclosure Statements. A number of comments were made by Committee members to be incorporated into the final version due for publication in September.
- 2.4. The Internal Audit Annual Report including the Head of Internal Audit Opinion was presented and accepted by Committee.
- 2.5. The Quality Accounts were presented; the highlights included the consultation work with stakeholders and the performance improvements against planned priorities. Going forward priorities would be aligned to CQUINS and the Business Plan. The Committee accepted the document which would be published by the end of June.

Annual Disclosure Statements

- 2.6. The External Auditors presented their unqualified opinion on the Annual Financial Disclosure Statements of the Trust. Their opinion had considered the assurance documentation detailed above together with the work undertaken by the Internal Audit team during their review. There had been no misstatements and no recommendations were made, the Auditors were complementary on the work of the Finance Team.

- 2.7. Papers were presented seeking assurance that their had not been any 'Post Balance Sheet Events' that would effect the Annual Financial Disclosure Statements and that Committee were assured that the Trust remained a 'Going Concern'. The Committee accepted these reports and agreed there had not been any Post Balance Sheet Events and that the Trust remained a Going Concern.
- 2.8. The Annual Accounts and Disclosure Statements were presented. The Finance Department and the External Auditors had held a Non-Executive Directors Briefing to assure members of the detail within these statements. The Committee were therefore assured by this process together with the assurances noted previously on the agenda. Committee therefore recommended the Annual Accounts for Approval by the Board.

Stakeholder and Other Committee Assurance

Quality Committee

- 2.9. The report of this Committee was received and accepted this included; the Quality impacts of CIP's; presentations and assurance by Clinical practitioners on Quality Governance and further scrutiny on the Committees workplan.

Finance & Investment Committee

- 2.10. The update included further assurance on the year end position following detailed Committee scrutiny around the Income and Expenditure Account and Cash Flow. Further updates were given on the CIP Programme and Business Cases including the purchase of the Trust Headquarters.

External Audit update

- 2.7. An update was provided on their Value for Money work which included securing financial resilience and governance work. The Auditors annual agreement of fees which was traditional brought to this meeting would be presented at the next meeting.

Internal Audit & Counter Fraud update

- 2.8. There was confirmation that the 2011/12 plan was delivered. Committee asked that a more detailed plan of action be brought to the next committee in respect of the Fleet Management review. The Bribery Act Compliance Report was presented and accepted by Committee.

Other Business

- 2.9. It was the Chair's last meeting and he thanked everyone for their support over the last 6 years; the committee reciprocated and thanked the Chair accordingly.

3.0 PROPOSAL/NEXT STEPS

- 3.1 That the Trust Board accepts this report.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 The Board has sufficient assurance on the activities delegated to the Audit Committee.

5.0 APPENDICES

- 5.1 Audit Committee Minutes 7 June 2012.