



**Paper Ref**  
 TB22.036

<b>Meeting Title</b> Trust Board Meeting in Public	<b>Meeting Date</b> 26 July 2022
<b>Reporting Committee</b>	Audit Committee
<b>Committee Chaired By</b>	Andrew Chang, Non-Executive Director
<b>Lead Executive Director</b>	Kathryn Vause: Interim Executive Director of Finance
<b>Date of Last Committee Meeting[s]</b>	9 June 2022 & 5 July 2022

### Summary of Key Matters Considered and Decisions Taken

The Committee has held two meetings since its last report to the Board in April 2022. The meetings were held via videoconference, and both were quorate. The key areas of discussion during the meeting are noted below.

#### 9 June 2022

- The Committee reviewed the Annual Report and Accounts, and associated returns for 2021-22. Noting that the Annual Governance Report to those Charged with Governance (ISA260) was still being finalised. The Committee supported the documents for approval by the Board subject to the finalised version of the ISA260.
- The Committee received the Head of Internal Audit Opinion on the governance framework, internal controls and risk management; this was rated as Significant Assurance.
- The Committee reviewed the draft Letter of Representation and recommended approval of it to the Board and for it to be signed by the Director of Finance and the Audit Committee Chair subsequent to receiving that approval.
- The Quality Account 2021-22 was received and supported for Board approval.
- The Committee reviewed and supported the self-assessment against Provider License statements, recommending Board approval.

#### 5 July 2022

- The Committee agreed the updated Internal Audit Plan for 2022-23 and received progress updates on internal audit work, and management actions. The Committee discussed ways to support management to ensure actions are delivered in a timely manner.
- It was noted that the Freedom to Speak Up Guardian had received counter fraud training from the Trust's Counter Fraud Specialist. This was to be rolled out to Freedom to Speak Up Ambassadors across the Trust.
- The Committee reviewed the 2021-22 Annual Reports of the Quality Committee and Finance and Investment Committee along with their terms of reference. These are supported by the Audit Committee and presented in the respective Committee updates to Board for approval.
- The Annual Report on Clinical Governance was received, providing assurance to the Committee on the systems and processes in place. It was agreed that regular



updates would be provided on Clinical Governance processes via the Quality Committee's Report to the Audit Committee.

- The Committee considered in detail the Risk Report and Board Assurance Framework, recognising the deteriorating situation around hospital handovers, and sought further clarity around the corporate, rather than operational response. It was noted that discussions relating to this subject had been held at both regional and national levels.
- Routine reports were received on losses and special payments, SFI Wavers and contracts over £100,000, and updates received from the other Board Committees.

**Risks Identified / Matters of Concern and Mitigating Actions**

None

**Matters for Escalation to the Board**

Hospital Handovers

The Committee recommends that the Board hold further discussions around corporate actions being taken to address the issues relating to Hospital Handover delays.

Audit Plan

To note: The Trust had received a request from NHSE to undertake a financial sustainability review by 31 August 2022. Internal Audit and the Executive Director of Finance were working together to manage the timing of this, within the planned internal audit days for 2022-23.

Date of next Committee Meeting

18 October 2022