



Board of Directors (held in Public)
26 October 2023
Trust's Estate in Relation to Reinforced Autoclaved
Aerated Concrete (RAAC)
Report of the Chief Executive

Item 4.12

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Presented for: | Assurance/Decision |
| Accountable Director: | Kathryn Vause, Executive Director of Finance |
| Presented by: | Kathryn Vause, Executive Director of Finance |
| Author: | Glen Adams, Associate Director of Estates, Fleet and Facilities Lynn Hughes, Interim Company Secretary |
| Previous Committees: | Board of Directors (in Private) – 28 Sept 23 |
| Legal / Regulatory: | Regulatory |

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Key Priorities/Goals | Create a safe and high performing organisation based on openness, ownership and accountability Generate resources to support patient care and the delivery of our long-term plans, by being as efficient as we can be and maximising opportunities for new funding |
|-----------------------------|---|

| Strategic Ambition | (✓) | BAF Strategic Risk |
|---|-----|--|
| 1. Patients and communities experience fully joined-up care responsive to their needs | | |
| 2. Our people feel empowered, valued and engaged to perform at their best | | |
| 3. We achieve excellence in everything we do | ✓ | 3c Ability to respond well to climate change and other business continuity threats |
| 4. We use resources wisely to invest in and sustain services | | |

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Key points | |
| The purpose of the paper is to provide the Board with an update on the Trust's position with regards to its premises following the letter received from NHS England on 5 September 2023 and the proposed next steps for tackling reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC) at the Trust's premises. | Assurance/Approval |

Board of Directors Meeting (held in Public)
26 October 2023
Trust's Estate in Relation to Reinforced Autoclaved
Aerated Concrete (RAAC)
Report of the Chief Executive

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of the paper is to provide the Board with an update on the Trust's position with regards to its premises following the letter received from NHS England on 5 September 2023 and the proposed next steps for tackling reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC).

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In response to the letter received from Jacqui Rock, Chief Commercial Officer and Dr Mike Prentice, National Director for Emergency Planning and Incident Response, NHS England on 5 September 2023 with reference to the new guidance published by the Department for Education in relation to the approach to the presence of RAAC in the school estate. This generated heightened public interest for RAAC in the NHS estate. The letter requested that NHS providers reiterate their position in the NHS estate, and to outline any actions that should be taken to assure the Board as far as possible that RAAC is identified and appropriately mitigated, to keep patients, staff and visitors safe.

3. THE TRUST'S ESTATE

- 3.1 The Trust's estate includes circa 109 buildings, with the majority built during the period RAAC was used. However, RAAC is known to have been used for larger buildings such as hospitals and schools predominantly for walls and ceilings. The Trust has undertaken 'condition assessments' over the years. The last condition assessment was undertaken in 2022, which concluded that there was no evidence at that time to suggest that there were structural defects relating to concrete in the Trust's building fabric.
- 3.2 Condition assessments do not include a full intrusive survey and for buildings to be fully assessed this would require a full structural assessment to be undertaken, which would incur additional costs.
- 3.3 The Trust's internal Estates Team have received the guidance issued in August 2023 from the Department of Education (Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC): Identification guidance) and will continue to monitor the quality of buildings and concrete specifically in line with this guidance. It is worth noting that only five of the Trust's buildings has concrete at the heart of their construction (Walls and Roofs) with the remaining buildings are of traditional building methods of brick, timber, steel and slate.
- 3.4 In order for the Board to be assured, it is recommended that a full report is provided to Finance and Performance Committee in response to this letter with assurances/risks/mitigating plans provided to the Board thereafter.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 No financial implications have been identified.

5. RISK

5.1 The condition assessments undertaken do not include a full intrusive survey and for buildings to be fully assessed this would require the Trust to commission a full structural assessment to be undertaken.

6. COMMUNICATION AND INVOLVEMENT

6.1 Not applicable at this stage.

7. EQUALITY ANALYSIS

7.1 Not applicable.

8. PUBLICATION UNDER FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

8.1 This paper is exempt from publication under Section 36 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

9. NEXT STEPS

9.1 It is recommended that a full report is provided to Finance and Performance Committee in response to this letter with assurances/risks/mitigating plans provided to the Board thereafter.

10. RECOMMENDATION

10.1 It is recommended that the Board: -

- 1) Note the letter received from Jacqui Rock, Chief Commercial Officer and Dr Mike Prentice, National Director for Emergency Planning and Incident Response, NHS England on 5 September 2023; and
- 2) Agree that the Financial and Performance Committee receives assurance on the actions required outlined in the letter with assurances/risks/mitigations provided to the Board thereafter with any remedial actions included in the Trust's Estate Backlog Maintenance Plan.

11. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

11.1 Appendix 1 – Letter from NHS England Chief Commercial Officer and National Director for Emergency Planning and Incident Response (5 September 2023)