

Board of Directors (in Public)
24 July 2025
Agenda Item: 21



Report Title	Audit and Risk Committee Report	
Author	Andrew Chang, Non-executive Director and Chair of Audit and Risk Committee	
Accountable Director	Kathryn Vause, Executive Director of Finance	
Previous committees/groups	N/A	
Recommended action(s)	Assurance/Information	
Purpose of the paper	The report provides highlights of the Audit and Risk Committee to provide assurance to the Trust Board.	
Executive Summary		
The report provides highlights of the Audit and Risk Committee to provide assurance to the Trust Board.		
The paper aims to update the Board on discussions taking place to reduce the risks set out in the Board Assurance Framework.		
Recommendation(s)	The Board are asked to note the contents of the report.	
Link to Board Assurance Framework Risks (board and level 2 committees only)	12. Secure sufficient revenue resources and use them wisely to ensure value for money. 10. Act as a collaborative, integral, and influential system partner.	

Escalation and Assurance Report

Report from: Audit & Risk Committee

Date of the meeting: 24 June 2025

Key discussion points and matters to be escalated from the discussion at the meeting:

Alert:

Nil, there are no issues to alert the board to.

Advise:

The Committee:

- Reviewed and commented on the revised draft Annual Governance Statement (AGS) 2024/25. The Committee resolved to recommend to the board that it approves.
- Reviewed and commented on the revised draft Annual Report and Accounts 2024/25 and resolved to recommend to the board that it approves it.
- Received and considered the Statement of Going Concern and accepted the Executive Director of Finance's recommendation that it approves the assessment that the Trust is a Going Concern.
- Received and considered the draft Letter of Representation and resolved to recommend to the board that it approves the Letter of Representation to be sent to the external auditor.
- Received and considered the final draft of the Quality Account 2024/25 and resolved to recommend to the board that it approves it.

Assure:

The Committee:

- Received and noted the Head of Internal Audit's annual opinion of "Significant Assurance". This is the highest level of assurance opinion that can be issued by the internal auditor. The Committee commended 360 Assurance for their work and asked that the executives congratulate the Trust teams for their efforts throughout the year.
- Received and noted the nil report on Assessment of Post Balance Sheet Events.
- Received and noted the Audit Completion Report 2024/25 and the Auditor's Annual Report 2024/25. Whilst there was still a small amount of testing to complete, Bishop Fleming anticipates issuing an unmodified opinion, that is, in their opinion the draft Annual Report and Accounts 2024 give a true and fair view of the state of the trust's affairs; that they have not identified any material uncertainties regarding Going Concern; that they have not identified any material inconsistencies in information that would indicate material misstatements; that the information given in the directors' report is consistent with the financial statements and that these reports have been prepared in accordance with international accounting standards, the Department of Health and Social Care Group Accounting Manual and the National Health Service Act 2006. Regarding matters Bishop Fleming is required to report on by exception, they have nothing to report.
- Received and noted the Trust's self-assessed position regarding compliance with annual report disclosures required by the NHS Code of Governance.
- Received and noted the Corporate Governance Report Register of Board Member Interests.
- Received and noted the Counter Fraud Annual Report 2024/25 from 360 Assurance.

Risks discussed:

Regulatory reporting; fraud; corporate governance.

New risks identified:

N/A

Report completed by: Andrew Chang, Committee Chair

Date: 30 June 2025