



Report Title	Finance and Performance Committee Chair's Report	
Author	Andrew Chang, Non-Executive Director	
Accountable Director	Kathryn Vause, Executive Director of Finance	
Previous committees/groups	None	
Recommended action(s) (assurance, approval, information)	Assurance/Information	
Purpose of the paper	To provide key updates from the Finance and Performance Committee meeting held on 16 April 2026.	
<b>Executive Summary</b>		
<p>This report summarises key updates from the Finance &amp; Performance Committee meeting of 16 April 2026 for the Trust Board's assurance and information.</p> <p>The Committee raised an Alert on Information Governance training compliance: 87.85% at 31 March 2026 versus a 90% target and 95% aspiration. Having questioned whether the 90% target remains appropriate and referred this to People Committee, it now recommends Board discussion on the target and improvement approach.</p> <p>Under Advise, the Committee reviewed a proposal to extend the Fuel Cards contract with Allstar Business Solutions for two years and recommends Board approval. Operational performance showed a strong year-end position and improved Category 2 response times, but Crew Clear time deteriorated; the Committee sought assurance on corrective actions, noted West as weakest, and was advised Crew Clear is a 2026/27 operational plan focus. It also raised concerns about strategic commander capacity under EPRR. Hear &amp; Treat and sickness absence remain problem areas; NHS England's acceptance of the 2026/27 plan is conditional on improvement, with funding at risk if delivery falls short. Fleet Maintenance appraisal compliance is 55%, with improvement prioritised.</p> <p>For assurance, the Committee noted improved Emergency Operations Centre performance, achievement of Integrated Urgent Care call-answer targets despite demand, strong Patient Transport Services performance, and Fleet metrics: 84.29% vehicle availability (target 82%) and Double Crewed Ambulance average age 4.15 years.</p> <p>Overall, the Committee seeks Board support on the contract decision and oversight of the highlighted compliance, capacity and performance risks.</p>		
Recommendation(s)	It is recommended that the Trust Board 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.	

## Escalation and Assurance Report

Report from: Finance & Performance Committee

Date of the meeting: 16 April 2026

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

#### Alert:

The Committee noted the ongoing under performance within the Trust regarding Information Governance training compliance which was 87.85% at 31 March 2026. The target is 90% though the Trust has an aspirational target of 95%. During the year, the Trust considered that the risk of not attaining the 90% target was low. The Committee previously questioned the appropriateness of the 90% target and referred the matter for the People Committee's attention. The Committee now recommends that this matter be brought to the Trust board's attention for discussion.

#### Advise:

The Committee:

- Considered a proposal to exercise an option to extend, by two years, the contract for the provision of Fuel Cards. The contract with Allstar Business Solutions was for an initial two-year term, with an option to extend for a further two years. **The Committee recommends that the Board approves the take up of the two years contract extension option.**
- Reviewed operational performance noting the strong year-end position, particularly the significant improvement in Category 2 response times. However, the Committee noted the deteriorating performance on Crew Clear time and sought assurance on next steps to address it. It was also commented on that there were noticeable geographical differences in crew performance with West having the weakest performance. The Committee was assured that Crew Clear time performance is a focus of the 2026/27 operational plan.
- Raised concerns regarding the Trust's strategic commander capacity under Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response. This too, is to be addressed.
- Noted that Hear & Treat performance and staff sickness continue to be problem areas for the Trust. The Committee was assured that these are areas for improvement and that acceptance of the Trust's 2026/27 operational plan by NHS England was conditional on delivery of key performance measures, including increased Hear & Treat and reduced sickness absence. It was noted that funding is at risk if these improvements are not delivered.
- Was advised that within Fleet Maintenance staff appraisal compliance was significantly behind target at 55%. The Committee was reassured that improving appraisal compliance is a priority for 2026/27.

#### Assure:

The Committee:

- Noted continued improvement in Emergency Operations Centre performance by year end, the achievement of call-answer targets in Integrated Urgent Care despite increased demand, and strong overall performance within Patient Transport Services.
- Received the Fleet Assurance presentation noting that vehicle availability for 2025/26 was 84.29% against a target of 82%. Additionally, the average age of the Double Crewed Ambulance fleet has been reduced to 4.15 years.

**Risks discussed:**

Procurement Act 640; Operational performance 627, 612, 602, 623; 724; 695; BAF 1, 5, 13, 14

**New risks identified:**

None

**Report completed by: Andrew Chang, Committee Chair**

**Date: 16 April 2026**