



## TRUST BOARD

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**Title:** KEY ISSUES AND ESCALATION POINTS  
**Name of Committee:** Audit Committee  
**Committee Chair:** Catherine Dugmore  
**Meeting Date:** 11 April 2022

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### Summary of key messages:

The following key reports were covered at the last meeting:

- Local Counter Fraud Service (LCFS) progress report, and 2022/23 Workplan
- Internal Audit Draft Head of Internal Audit Opinion, Internal Audit 2022/23 Annual Plan, 2021/22 Progress and Follow-up report
- External Audit progress report
- Review of Draft Annual Governance Statement
- Review of Board Assurance Framework
- Waivers and Special payments
- 2022/23 Cycle of Business
- Key issues from other Committees

The LCFS has progressed well with the LCFS plan for 2021/22 and focus is now on collating the counter fraud functional standard evidence to submit to the NHS Counter Fraud Authority (NHSCFA) ahead of the deadline on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2022. A meeting will take place between the Director of Finance and Resources, the Audit Committee Chair and LCFS to review counter fraud functional standard evidence provided. The LCFS will then submit the form on behalf of the Trust to NHSCFA

The LCFS plan for 2022/23 will include a series of awareness campaigns to help line managers to support their teams to identify and report fraud. The Chair agreed to hold an offline meeting with Erin Sims and Liz Wright to gain insight on LCFS and internal audit matters.

The Draft Head of Internal Audit Opinion for the 12 months ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 is a positive one, concluding the organisation has an adequate and effective framework for risk management, governance and internal control.

The Internal Plan for 2022/23 was discussed by the Committee and agreed with minor amendments, for example ensuring that there is an equality focus in their work to include how data collected would help the Trust to make decisions about some of the current equality issues such as access to services, and the Staff Health and Wellbeing review to focus on whether the Trust was doing all what could be done to support staff.

External Audit presented the plan for the 2021/22 audit with the following key points:

- Materiality was increased from 1.75% to 2%.
- An overview of the audit risk for 2021/22 - there were two new 'normal' risks:
  - Disclosures in remuneration report – national resolution to the deferred pensions position had not been agreed yet.
  - IFRS 16 leases disclosure – there was a risk over the potential impact of IFRS 16 on the financial statements within the accounting policies.
- Auditor was required to gather sufficient evidence relating to Value For Money arrangements. To be completed within three months after signing the financial statements.

The draft Annual Governance Statement was presented to the Committee and it was agreed to strengthen the references to the assurance processes in place during the pandemic and the Mass Vaccination Clinical Operational Board set up in March 2021.

The Committee reviewed the BAF and it was acknowledged that the Board would be reviewing the BAF, strategic risks and ICB risks going forward on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2022 at the Board Development session.

**Escalation Points:**

There were no points for escalation to the Board.

**Emerging Risks/Issues:**

None

**Examples of Outstanding Practice or Innovation:**

None

Author:	<b>Mark Robbins</b>
Job Title:	<b>Director of Finance and Resources</b>
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