



## TRUST BOARD

---

**Title:** KEY ISSUES AND ESCALATION POINTS  
**Name of Committee:** Extraordinary Audit Committee  
**Committee Chair:** Catherine Dugmore  
**Meeting Date:** 28<sup>th</sup> March 2023

---

### Summary of key messages:

The following key issues were discussed:

- Bishop Fleming External Audit Plan for 2022/23
- RSM potential areas of coverage for the 2023/24 Internal Audit Plan

Craig Sullivan presented the External Audit Plan noting the approach to date and the planned approach and activities required during the audit in Ma:

- The plan was issued after the Auditors had completed most of their planning procedures and transitioning arrangements. The procedures included:
  - Reviewing the working papers of the outgoing Auditors (BDO) to get professional clearance.
  - From the review and meetings with BDO, there was nothing to be flagged to the Committee that was not already identified in the action plan previously discussed by the Committee at the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2023.
  - Transition arrangements with staff were completed. A workshop was held with the finance team; expectations were highlighted. The workshop was positive.
  - Meetings were held with directors including the Trust Chair and the Audit Committee Chair to get the perspective on the performance of the Trust and in terms of risk.
- The plan set out the Auditors' responsibilities including auditing the financial statements, the annual report and the Value for Money (VFM) opinion:
  - Financial sustainability
  - Governance
  - Improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness.
- The plan also procedures to test and reduce the risk of material misstatement in the financial statements, and where significant risks identified for audit planning these were outlined in plan
- The Auditors had held conversations with management and the Audit Committee Chair as to whether they were aware of any significant fraud either suspected or alleged. The Committee were also asked to confirm whether they were aware of any fraud issues that could impact the audit.
- A full audit timetable was outlined in the plan (section 3). Week commencing 1<sup>st</sup> May 2023, audit field work to be undertaken. Extraordinary Audit Committee meeting was scheduled for 19<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Liz Wright presented the potential areas for audit coverage for 2023/24:

- A detailed plan with timings and allocation would be shared at Audit Committee on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023.
- The Plan was linked to the four Trust Strategic objectives.

- Areas proposed to be covered during 2023-24 were highlighted in bold within each section.
- The following were proposed for Provide Outstanding Care:
  - Governance and Decision Making – this would be useful considering organisational changes to governance structures and arrangements.
  - Business Continuity - to include testing about the robustness of the plans at service level to ensure the Trust had robust processes.
  - Sharing of Learning - clinically focused audit on triangulation of areas of learning from complaints, incidents or raising concerns.
  - Divisional Governance – to provide assurance on the structures of different business units.
- No audit was being proposed for ‘Collaboration’ objective due to the infancy of collaboration arrangements. The Trust was a player rather than a leader in some of those arrangements.
- Sickness Absence and Consultant Job-Planning were proposed for Excellent Employer. It was planned to carry out both audits in conjunction with counter fraud because there were significant fraud aspects to both areas.
- The following were proposed for Head of Internal Audit (HOIA):
  - Key Financial Controls and Payroll
  - Information Governance / DSPT
  - Risk Management and BAF

Areas for changing timing and approach were discussed and would be updated in the plan going to Audit Committee on 17<sup>th</sup> April.

**Escalation Points:**

None

**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>
Date:	May 2023