

TRUST BOARD

Title:	Audit Committee: Key Issues Report
Action:	FOR DISCUSSION/ NOTING
Meeting:	9 May 2018

Purpose:

In line with the Trust's delegation framework this paper updates the Board on key messages from the Audit Committee and any points of escalation.

This paper relates specifically to from the Audit Committee meeting held on 09 April 2018.

Recommendation:

The Board is asked to note the update from the Audit Committee and discuss any issues arising.

	Name	Title
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Executive Sponsor:	Mark Robbins	Director of Finance & Resources

Trust Objectives

Objective	How the report supports achievement of the Trust objectives:
Provide outstanding care	The audit committee is responsible for ensuring that the Trust has adequate systems of control in place to deliver the Trust's objectives and ensure the Board receives sufficient assurance of this.
Collaborate with other organisations	
Be an excellent employer	
Be a sustainable organisation	

Trust risk register

N/A

Legal and Regulatory requirements:

This Committee operates in line with corporate governance best practice, referring to guidance documents such as the UK Corporate Governance Code and Charities Act 2011.

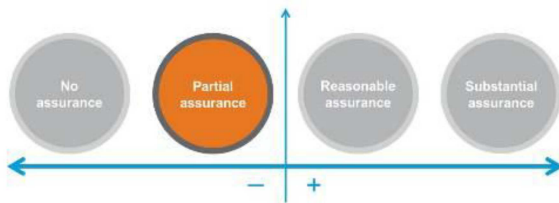
Equality and Diversity implications:

This report does not include any specific Equality and Diversity implications.

Objective	How the report supports achievement of objectives:							
Achieve an improvement in the percentage of service users who report that they are able to access the Trust services that they require	Not applicable							
Enhance our approach to involving and capturing the experience of hard to reach / seldom heard / varied community groups	Not applicable							
Using the national 'A Call to Action on Bullying and Aggression', internally take action to promote our Zero tolerance policy and address bullying and aggression when it occurs.	Not applicable							
Ensure that the Workforce Race Equality Standard is embedded and undertake proactive work around any areas of under-representation identified. In particular, we will seek innovative methods to have co-opted representation on the Trust Board from more diverse backgrounds.	Not applicable							
Are any of the following protected characteristics impacted by items covered in the paper								
Age	Disability	Gender Reassignment	Marriage and Civil Partnership	Pregnancy and Maternity	Race	Religion and Belief	Sex	Sexual Orientation
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Key Messages for the Board:

- The following issues were covered at the last meeting:
 - Local Counter Fraud Services including the 2017/18 Fraud Risk Assessment
 - Internal Audit Progress Report, Follow Up Report, Draft Head of Internal Audit Opinion 2017/18, Draft Plan for 2018/19 and Executive Team Feedback report in regards to IA reports and plan.
 - External Audit Progress Report
 - Review of Draft Annual Governance Statement Quality Assurance Update including Clinical Audit progress update
 - Review of the Board Assurance Framework
- The Trust had now submitted its Counter Fraud Annual Self Review Tool with a rating of Amber. It was recognised that the Trust had controls in place, these could be strengthened mainly with regards to the monitoring of fees paid for agency staff, ensure Declaration of Interest processes are adhered to in line with Trust policies. The Trust also needs to ensure staff are aware of the current risks as they emerge with regards to the threat of cybercrime.
- The Safeguarding Supervision audit (added to the plan at the request of the Executive Team) received a partial assurance. Audit had found that there are robust processes in place in relation to the undertaking of safeguarding supervision at the Trust and the recording and tracking of these appointments for compliance reporting. There is also evidence to show that supervision is worthwhile and conducted by experienced and supportive supervisors. We have, however, highlighted concerns regarding incomplete supervision templates and the lack of oversight and allocation of timescales for action plans. There were also issues around the tracking and updating of supervision contracts and issuing of safeguarding toolkits.



- The bi-annual review of all risks had demonstrated continued good work on risk management across the Trust. There was more improvement work to be done on training and awareness and to improve the quality of risks, particularly those that do not meet the threshold for reporting to the Board and its subcommittees.
- The committee noted the significant improvement on the follow-up audit report. A process is now in place and getting embedded which should ensure continued improvement and consistency.
- The Draft Head of Internal Audit Opinion for 2017/18:



- The draft Annual Governance statement was reviewed and the committee suggested changes before final approval in May 2018.
- The committee reviewed the Board Assurance Framework. There were no issues arising for escalation to the Board at this stage.
- External Auditors have Identified a significant VFM risk relating to medium term sustainability mainly based on financial pressures impacting the whole healthcare system. This was to be the focus of their testing during April 2018.

Issues for Escalation

There were no points for escalation to the Trust Board in line with the escalation framework.