



## TRUST BOARD

**Title:** KEY ISSUES AND ESCALATION POINTS  
**Name of Committee:** Audit Committee  
**Committee Chair:** Catherine Dugmore  
**Meeting Date:** 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023

### Summary of key messages:

The following key issues were discussed:

- Clinical Audit Annual Report (2022/23)
- Local Counter Fraud Service (LCFS) progress report
- Internal Audit Progress and Follow-up reports
- Review of the Board Assurance Framework
- External Audit update
- Waivers and Special payments
- Key issues from other Committees

Key points to note include:

- Further work would be undertaken to increase participation in staff Fraud Awareness Seminars.
- A recent 'Governance and Decision Making' internal audit had received a rating of 'Substantial Assurance'.
- Board members had participated in a financial planning workshop during October; further sessions were planned at both board and sub-committee level which would provide more transparency.
- Heat maps and emerging risks would be discussed at a Trust Board Workshop in December.
- The Clinical Audit report provided 'substantial' assurance, compared to 'reasonable' assurance from the previous year's report. Continuous monitoring had returned to pre-covid levels. The number of safeguarding audits during 2022/23 had been reduced owing to staffing issues and the implementation of business continuity plans; the staffing trajectory for 2023/24 was now in a much better position. The outputs of the Lucy Letby Review would be considered during the development of the 2024/25 audit cycle.
- The BAF report provided 'substantial' assurance and was now regularly reviewed by the Board. One additional strategic risk had been added since July which related to the impacts of the winter season.

### Escalation Points:

None

### Emerging Risks/Issues:

- A discussion took place on how best the Trust could best manage an emerging risk around the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Plans would be considered to review both the roles of the Digital Transformation Board and the Quality, Improvement & Safety Committee and would be presented to board members in February.

### Examples of Outstanding Practice or Innovation:

None

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