

Meeting title:	Public Trust Board	Public Trust Board paper K			
Date of the meeting:	12 January 2023				
Title:	Escalation Report: Audit Committee 23 December 2022 - Public				
Report presented by:	Mike Williams, Audit Committee, Non-Executive Director, Chair				
Report written by:	Alison Moss, Corporate and Committee Services Officer				
Action – this paper is for:	Decision/Approval		Assurance	x	Update
Where this report has been discussed previously	Not applicable				

To your knowledge, does the report provide assurance or mitigate any significant risks? If yes, please detail which
Yes, all.

Impact assessment
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Acronyms used:

1. **Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 To provide assurance to the Trust Board on the work of the Audit Committee and escalate any issues as required.

2. **Recommendation**

- 2.1 There is one item from Audit Committee requiring Trust Board approval. The Audit Committee’s terms of reference are presented as a stand-alone report on the Trust Board agenda for 12 January 2023.

3. **Summary**

The Audit Committee met on 23 December 2022. The meeting was quorate and considered the following reports.

3.1 **Recommended Items**

3.1.1 **Audit Committee Terms of Reference and Workplan**

The Committee note that the terms of reference had been updated to include reference to the oversight of the statutory recommendations. The terms of reference reflected those in the NHS Audit Handbook.

The Audit Committee terms of reference are recommended for Trust Board approval. A standalone report is included on the 12.1.23 Trust Board agenda accordingly.

3.2 Discussion Items

3.2.1. Annual Governance Review and Annual Report

The Committee noted that the documents reflected the historic issues that the Trust was addressing to improve its governance, financial reporting, and leadership culture. It was suggested that the summary emphasised the progress made, noting that there was considerable work to do.

3.2.2 Board Assurance Framework and Risk Management

The Committee received assurance regarding the refreshed Board Assurance Framework (BAF) and risk management.

3.2.3 Finance Improvement Plan

The Committee considered the progress in implementing the Trust's Financial Improvement Plan. It was reported that 40 actions had been completed; 45 were in progress and 47 were outstanding. It was expected that 22 actions would be completed by the end of December 2022. The risks to delivery were the competing priorities on the team which included the preparation of the external audit, Month 9 submission and the audit of 2022/23 accounts. The Chief Financial Officer considered that in context of the pressure on the Directorate good progress had been made.

3.2.4 Progress of Management Response to Statutory Recommendations

The Committee received a report setting out progress in relation to the Statutory Recommendations from the Audit of Accounts 2019/20.

3.2.5 Internal Audit Overdue actions

The Committee received a report setting out progress for the actions from Internal Audit reports. The Committee expressed concern at the number of outstanding actions and stated the need for significant improvement to address the actions by March 2023.

3.2.6 Internal Audit Progress Report 2022/23

The Committee received a report from Internal Audit detailing the progress on the Trust's 2022/23 Internal Audit Plan.

3.2.7 Internal Audit Reviews

The Committee received the following reports from the Internal Audit, noting the findings and agreed actions.

- Review of HFMA Improving NHS financial sustainability checklist
- Strategic governance and risk management

3.2.8 360 Assurance: Counter Fraud Progress Report 2022/23

The Committee received a report on progress on the Counter Fraud Plan for 2022/2023.

4. Items for Noting

4.1 The Audit Committee received the following Minutes for noting:

- Charitable Funds Committee 7 October 2022
- Quality Committee 29 September and 27 October 2022
- Operations and Performance Committee 28 September and 26 October 2022
- Finance and Investment Committee 29 September and 27 October
- Reconfiguration and Transformation Committee 24 August 2022
- People and Culture Committee 25 August 2022.