



Trust Board

Date of Meeting: 6th June 2018

Report Title: Audit and Risk Assurance Committee Update

Agenda reference Number	17.1/0619
Accountable Executive Director (AED)	Sandra Betney, Director of Finance
Presenter (if not AED)	Richard Cryer, Chair of Audit and Assurance Committee
Author(s)	Sandra Betney, Director of Finance
Board action required	To note
Previously considered by	

Executive Summary

This report provides assurance to the Trust Board that the Audit and Assurance Committee is discharging its responsibility for oversight of the Trust's independent and objective review of its financial systems, financial information and compliance with laws, guidance and regulations governing the NHS.

It confirms:

- Decisions made by the Committee in line with the Trust's Scheme of Delegation.
- Progress made against the Trust's audit and assurance activities
- The key risks and issues identified by the Committee and the actions taken to mitigate these risks.

Recommendations:

The Board is asked to

- (i) **NOTE** the contents of the Audit and Assurance Committee report.

Related Trust Objectives	1.2.4.5.
Risk Implications	No risks identified
Quality/Equality Impact Assessment Requirements/implications (QEIA)	No equality implications identified
Financial Implications	No finance implications identified
Legal/Regulatory Implications	Legal/Regulatory implications are clearly referenced in the report

Audit and Risk Assurance Committee Update

1 Introduction and Purpose

The Audit and Assurance Committee met on the 9th and 23rd May 2019. Key Issues considered by the Committee were Internal Audit Annual Report, External Audit Report and GCS Annual Report and Accounts.

2. Internal Audit Reports

HR – Recruitment and Retention – Medium Risk.
An update on this report was requested by the Committee to ensure Management was focusing sufficiently on the areas.

Internal Audit presented their Annual Report. The Opinion was the same level as in 2017/18 “Opinion – generally satisfactory with some improvements required”. Progress that had been made was highlighted.

3. External Audit Report

The External Auditors confirmed that it would provide an unqualified opinion on the Trust’s Annual Accounts and that the Trust had complied with the Department of Health requirements in the preparation of its Annual Governance Statement. The External Auditor confirmed the adequacy of the Value for Money arrangements in place for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the Trust’s use of resources.

4. Annual Report and Accounts

The Committee considered in detail the final accounts 2018/19 which included year on year and performance against budget comparisons, bad debt provision and analysis and linked accounts, noting the opinion and feedback from the External Auditors. The Committee confirmed the Going Concern basis on which the Accounts were prepared- and the additional requirements for this relating to the merger.

The Committee, on behalf of the Board, formally approved the accounts, duly signed by the Chair, CEO and Director of Finance, for submission to NHSI.

5. Self-Certification of License

The Committee noted that from April 2017 NHS Trusts were required to self-certify compliance with the observations set out in the NHS Provider Licence (which includes compliance with the Health and Social Care Legislation, have regard to the constitution and complied with governance required). The Committee considered the Self-certification information provided.

The Committee NOTED the self-certification requirements and APPROVED on behalf of the Board the Self-Certification.

6. Counter Fraud Report

The Committee reviewed and endorsed the Annual Counter Fraud Report for 2018/19 noting the assurance processes and the way the activity from 2018/19 would inform work planned in 2019/2020 activity

7. Committee Self-Assessment

The Committee, in line with the other Board Committees, undertook a self assessment to inform the Annual Report and the Review of Effectiveness. No significant issues were highlighted.

8. Bad Debts

The Committee considered the £257K HIV debt originating in 15/16 and 16/17, which NHS England have advised are collectable, but have been unable to assist further in collection. The balances are all from CCGs with the highest balances being due from South Gloucestershire (£57K) and Swindon (£94K) CCGs. The Board is asked to consider what further action should be taken to recover the bad debt.

7. Conclusion

The Audit and Risk Assurance Committee has reviewed a range of assurance reports from across Trust and has maintained an independent and objective review.

8. Recommendations

The Board is asked to

- (i) NOTE** the contents of the Audit and Assurance Committee report.