

**TRUST BOARD – 29 June 2021**

**AUDIT AND ASSURANCE COMMITTEE held 4 June 2021**

**HIGHLIGHT REPORT**

The key headlines/issues and levels of assurance are set out below, and are graded as follows:

Strength of Assurance	Colour to use in 'Strength of Assurance' column below
Low	Red - there are significant gaps in assurance and/or not properly assured as to the adequacy of action plans/controls
Medium	Amber - there is reasonable level of assurance but some issues identified to be addressed.
High	Green – there are no gaps in assurance and there are adequate action plans/controls

Report	Assurance level*	Committee escalation	ORR Risk Reference
Internal Audit Progress Report	HIGH	<p>Three final reports have been issued since the last AAC meeting.</p> <p>There is one outstanding report on the Mental Health Act compliance from the 2020/21 plan. This has been issued as draft and should be concluded soon.</p> <p>The follow up rate was now at 95%.</p> <p>The Committee noted the progress within the report.</p>	5 & 54*
Head of Internal Audit Opinion 2021/22	HIGH	Significant assurance was given as the overall opinion.	5 & 54*
Update on Progress of the External Audit	HIGH	The Committee noted the progress on the External Audit of the year end accounts.	5&54*

<b>Report</b>	<b>Assurance level*</b>	<b>Committee escalation</b>	<b>ORR Risk Reference</b>
2020/21 Counter Fraud Annual Report	HIGH	The Committee received the 2020/21 Counter Fraud Annual Report and noted the information that was contained. The Committee noted the change in standards, introducing new requirements, may show our position is deteriorating but received assurance that this was not case by reference back to the previous standards. . The actions on this year's plans will focus on the differences of the standards and will make sure they are embedded within the Trust.	5&54*
Counter Fraud Progress Report	HIGH	The Committee received the Counter Fraud Progress Report and noted progress.	5&54*
2021/22 Draft Counter Fraud Plan	HIGH	The Committee approved the Counter Fraud Plan.	5&54*
AAC Annual Committee Review	HIGH	The Committee approved the AAC Annual Committee Review Report subject to an addition of a comment with regards to the work of counter fraud and the future plans.	
Risk Management Arrangements and Policy	HIGH	The Committee received the Risk Management Arrangements and approved the Risk Management Policy.	5*
Legal and Regulatory Issues	HIGH	The Committed noted there were no legal and regulatory issues.	5*
Internal and External Audit Follow up of Actions	HIGH	The Committee noted progress on the internal and external audits follow up of actions. It was agreed that there needed to be continued focus on the follow up of actions outstanding after first follow up.	5*
Financial Waivers	HIGH	The Committee noted the financial waivers.	5,48 & 54
Losses and Special Payments Annual Report	HIGH	The Committee noted the losses and special payments that were made last year.	5
Going Concern Assessment – 2020/21	HIGH	The Committee received the Going Concern Assessment report and supported the contents.	5
Standing Orders and Standing Financial Instructions	HIGH	The Committee received and approved the proposed changes to the Trust's Standing Orders and Standing Financial Instructions.	5,48 & 54
Annual Governance Statement	HIGH	The Committee received and supported the contents of the Annual Governance Statement subject to some minor amends.	5&54*

Report	Assurance level*	Committee escalation	ORR Risk Reference
Chairs of QAC/FPC updates on key issues	HIGH	The Committee was fully assured by updates provided by FPC and QAC chairs.	5*
Auditor Panel Update	HIGH	The Committee noted the auditor panel update.	
Cyber Security Annual Report	MEDIUM	The committee requested more information to support the Cyber security activity that had taken over the previous year.	5*

**\*principal risk(s) shown but will also cover other risks on ORR**

Chair	Darren Hickman
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