

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>Public Board of Directors</b>	<b>Agenda item:</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>26 January 2021</b>		

<b>Title of Report:</b>	<b>Audit &amp; Risk Committee Update Report</b>
<b>Status:</b>	<b>For Discussion</b>
<b>Sponsor:</b>	<b>Jeremy Boss, Non-Executive Director &amp; Chair of the Audit Committee</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Katie McClean, EA to Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance</b>
<b>Appendices</b>	<b>None</b>

**Purpose**

This report summarises the discussions, recommendations and approvals made by the Audit & Risk Committee on 10 December 2020, to provide the Board with an update of the Committee's activities.

**Background**

The Audit Committee holds delegated responsibility from the Board of Directors; this report provides evidence to satisfy the Board that the tasks required to meet those responsibilities are being carried out.

**Business Undertaken**

The Chair welcomed Sumita Hutchison, Non-Executive Director as a new member of the Audit and Risk Committee and Antony Durbacz, Non- Executive Director who would be taking over as Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee in the New Year.

The Committee reviewed and approved the Work plan.

The Committee discussed the Standing Financial Instructions and approved them subject to the requested amendments.

The Head of Corporate Governance updated the Committee on Declarations of Interest, the Committee noted the report and agreed that the Directors' interests could be published on the website once updated. The Committee did not approve other staff interests to be published but for a statement to be on the website stating that these were available on request.

The Head of Corporate Governance presented the Audit Committee Annual Report, The Committee approved this annual report to Board subject to the requested changes.

The Director, Grant Thornton presented their progress report, indicating that they were still experiencing delays due to the COVID pandemic.

The Director, Grant Thornton presented the Outpatient Review report, explaining that it was undertaken as a result of changes to the running of outpatient services as a result of COVID. The Committee noted the report

The Director, Deloitte presented the annual plan and fee letter. The committee noted

the plan

The Counter Fraud Manager provided an update. The Committee noted the report.

The Head of Corporate Governance provided the Committee with an update on the Board Assurance framework and highlighted the following points;

- Work was ongoing on the impact of COVID on the Trust, this is covered by BAF 4 and 5 and it would be assessed whether these 2 risks could be merged or reworded to better highlight the impact on the Trust

The Interim Head of Financial Services provided the Committee with an update on Debtor and Creditor Analysis. The Committee noted the report.

The Head of Corporate Governance provided an update on the Audit Recommendations tracker and confirmed some progress had been made with the old recommendations. The Committee noted the tracker and progress made.

### **Key Risks and their impact on the Organisation**

- Impact of a disorderly exit from the EU due to uncertainty on a agreement
- Vaccination programme planning and rollout
- Adverse impact on the Trust from COVID
- Medicines management (linking with planned Internal Audit)

### **Key Decisions**

- The amended Standing Financial Instructions were approved
- Deputy Director of Finance would take on the role of Fraud Champion
- Directors Interests would be routinely published on the intranet, other staff would be available on request
- The external audit plan and related fees were noted

### **Exceptions and Challenges**

Nothing impacted on the Committee's ability to undertake its business.

### **Governance and Other Business**

Audit Committee meets at least once each quarter, and the Committee's Terms of Reference are reviewed annually. The Committee's members and regular attenders undertake a self-assessment bi-annually to review the effectiveness of the Committee compared to best practice.

The Committee's membership consists of the Non-Executives, the Chair, and the Chairs of the Non-Clinical Governance Committee, and the Clinical Governance Committee.

### **Future Business**

- Final Accounts planning
- Capital Process Review
- Continued monitoring of internal audit and anti-fraud work plans
- Risk Management Process Review

### **Recommendations**

The Board is asked to note this report.