

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>Public Board of Directors</b>	<b>Agenda item:</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>1 May 2024</b>		
<b>Title of Report:</b>	<b>Alert, Advise and Assure Report – Audit &amp; Risk Committee</b>		
<b>Status:</b>	<b>For information</b>		
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**Key Discussion Points and Matters to be escalated from the meeting held on 14 March 2024.**

**ALERT: Alert to matters that require the board’s attention or action, e.g. non-compliance, safety or a threat to the Trust’s strategy**

- The Committee received a Draft Head of Internal Audit Option which based on the reviews completed to date is of only Partial Assurance. The Committee urged the Executive to urgently work with Internal Audit, focusing on the key reports on Risk, Data, and Budgetary Management to address the significant weaknesses identified, and to close and / or firm up the actions and timelines in respect of significant High priority actions arising from the eRostering, Infection Control and Patient Experience audits, such that the final opinion would be found to be Significant Assurance.
- Due to the timings of the Board of Directors, (5<sup>th</sup> June) and Audit & Risk Committee (20<sup>th</sup> June), the Audit & Risk Committee request that the Board of Directors delegate authority of the approval of the Annual Report and Accounts to the Audit & Risk Committee on 20<sup>th</sup> June.

**ADVISE: Advise of areas of ongoing monitoring or development or where there is negative assurance**

- The Committee requested that the process of reporting individual internal audit reports to each of the Board’s sub-committees be improved to enable the relevant committee to be informed by findings and to own agreed actions as an important part of their work programme.

**ASSURE: Inform the board where positive assurance has been achieved**

- The Committee received a high level of assurance that work on the 2023-24 final accounts audit was on track.

**RISK: Advise the board which risks were discussed and if any new risks were identified.**

- The Committee would like to see the BAF developed as a more forward looking tool, highlighting planned actions (with dates) which would mitigate risk and either bring it within the risk appetite (target) or else prompt a review of that risk appetite. KPMG offer to assist by reference to best practice elsewhere.

**CELEBRATING OUTSTANDING: Share any practice, innovation or action that the committee considers to be outstanding**

- None

**APPROVALS: Decisions and Approvals made by the Committee**

- The Committee recommended to the Board of Governors that Deloitte be re-appointed as External Auditors at the end of the current contract.
- The Committee approved the 24/25 Internal Audit Plan and 24/25 Counter Fraud Plan
- The Committee approved the Treasury Management Strategy noting the increased importance of cashflow forecasting.

The Board is asked to NOTE the content of the report.