

Board of Directors Meeting in Public - Cover Sheet

All reports **MUST** have a cover sheet

Subject:	Report of the Finance Committee	Date: 2nd December 2021								
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Approved By:	Neal Gossage, NED									
Presented By:	Neal Gossage, NED									
Purpose										
This paper summarises the assurance provided by the Finance Committee around financial management in the Trust and records matters the Committee considers need to be brought to the attention of the Board of Directors		<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Approval</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Assurance</td> <td>X</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Update</td> <td>X</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Consider</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Approval		Assurance	X	Update	X	Consider	
Approval										
Assurance	X									
Update	X									
Consider										
Strategic Objectives										
To provide outstanding care	To promote and support health and wellbeing	To maximise the potential of our workforce								
		To continuously learn and improve								
		To achieve better value								
		X								
Overall Level of Assurance										
	Significant	Sufficient								
		X								
		Limited								
		None								
Risks/Issues										
Financial	Performance and financial forecasts									
Patient Impact										
Staff Impact										
Services										
Reputational										
Committees/groups where this item has been presented before										
N/A										
Executive Summary										
<p>An extraordinary virtual meeting of the Finance Committee was held on 22 November 2021 due to the Covid-19 restrictions.</p> <p>Matters to be brought to the attention of the board:</p> <p>1.1 Microsoft ESA</p> <p>The Trust requires an Enterprise Subscription Agreement (ESA) to be able to operate all Trust computer systems. The licence is procured by NHIS on behalf of its 'member organisations' including SFH and the licence cost is shared on an equitable basis. The current licence expires on 31 December 2021 and a new licence is only available for a period of three years.</p> <p>The new licence needs to be put in place by 1 January 2022 to ensure continuity of service. The cost is £1.45m pa and the committee approved the expenditure (subject to further board approval) as there is no option not to have a Microsoft ESA. The committee also sought assurance that the discount received in the first two years of the agreement will continue into the third year if prices are increased by Microsoft.</p> <p>1.2 Allocate Contract Renewal</p> <p>The Trust uses Allocate to manage electronic rosters and e-job plans. A five-year agreement was entered into with Allocate in 2019 on a 2+1+1+1 basis as this provides for a break after two years and each subsequent year within the five-year period.</p>										

There are not many providers of these systems and the service received from Allocate has been satisfactory. The initial two-year period of the agreement expires on 29 November 2021 so the committee approved a one year extension at a cost of £273,508.

1.3 Critical Care Business Case

The committee considered a proposal to improve Adult Critical Care through the establishment of two bed spaces within the CCU and additional staffing to enhance scheduled elective work, non-elective surgical activity and unplanned admissions. This provides for additional capacity, mitigates risks on the risk register in CCU and provides for 15 beds in total on the unit. It is anticipated that length of stay can also be reduced together with an improved quality of life for survivors of critical illness. The proposal will also enable the Trust to meet CQC and GPCS2 standards.

Funding has been secured for the second half of the current financial year from the NHS England Targeted Investment Fund but funding for 2022/23 remains uncertain at present (Planning guidance for 2022/23 is expected in December 2021). There is a risk that the work cannot be started by the end of the current financial year (putting the associated funding at risk) but this project will be given a high priority. The revenue funding required for 2022/23 is £1.78m.

On the basis of the improved service, the committee approved the proposal subject to further board approval.

Other matters discussed by the Committee

2.1 Security extension

When the Covid vaccination programme started around one year ago, the Trust put in place security arrangements for the various vaccination centres 'managed' by SFH. At that time, a number of security options were considered and a temporary arrangement was entered into. The cost of that service now needs to be approved up until the end of December 2021. That was approved by the committee.

Once there is further clarity on the vaccination programme, security of the centres will be reviewed and further options will be considered.