

**Audit and Assurance Committee Chair’s Highlight Report to Council of Governors**

<b>Subject:</b>	Audit and Assurance Committee	<b>Date:</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> August 2024
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Manjeet Gill – Chair of Audit and Assurance Committee		
<b>Approved By:</b>	Manjeet Gill		
<b>Presented By:</b>	Manjeet Gill		
<b>Purpose:</b>			
		<b>Assurance</b>	<b>Substantial Assurance</b>

<b>Matters of Concern or Key Risks Escalated for Noting / Action</b>	<b>Major Actions Commissioned / Work Underway</b>
<p><b>Delivery of Trust Strategy</b> – Concern about capacity to deliver strategy, improvements and innovation. Especially to meet the requirements of the externally supported financial efficiency work commissioned by the ICB in line with national direction.</p> <p><b>Fracture Liaison Database</b> – Further assurance is sought via Quality Committee regarding this database. It is a mandated requirement and assurance needed for the plans and timescales to put this in place.</p>	<p>Progress on Due Diligence work for procurement and contract management including the opportunities around the Dynamic Purchasing Systems to open up the Frameworks, stronger procedures around Single tender waivers, and revisiting the processes around “No PO No Payment” about all of which a progress update report will be brought to the Committee in 3 months’ time.</p> <p>Assurance on the Mental Health review and delivery of our Mental Health Strategy.</p> <p>Assurance to be provided by NHIS on timescales for completing the Network Data Security Policy.</p>
<b>Positive Assurances to Provide</b>	<b>Decisions Made (include BAF review outcomes)</b>
<p>Substantial Assurance provided from the Internal Audit Progress report against the 2024/25 Plan (including the new presentation of reports to show the strength of cumulative assurance), Register of Interests update, Non-clinical policies update, completion of outstanding Internal Audit Actions, Counter Fraud Progress report and Non-Clinical Audits.</p> <p>Assessment by 360 Assurance of the final submission of the Data Security Protection Toolkit provides substantial (high) assurance.</p> <p>Risk Committee report provided good assurance overall noting the</p>	<p>Losses and special payments (x3) noted and approved.</p> <p>Assured on the Board Assurance Framework process.</p> <p>Noted PR4 will be considered by the Finance Committee at its meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2023.</p>

substantial Assurance from the work around Digital risk management, in particular.

Substantial Assurance on the strengthening of due diligence processes for contract management, procurement and single tender waivers.

Moderate Assurance opinion following the Internal Audit for FIP with assurance on the actions being taken to address recommendations.

Limited Assurance opinion following the Internal Audit for Safeguarding. Assured on the actions being taken to implement the Audit recommendations.

#### **Comments on effectiveness of the meeting**

Substantial Assurance on the Committee's Effectiveness including the quality and balance of the reports. Governor observers were asked for feedback with one pointing out that it felt to him that the Trust is now being reactive rather than proactive in relation to the delivery of its Strategy.

#### **Items recommended for consideration by other Committees**

Quality Committee to seek assurance on timescales for completion of Fracture Liaison Database and Clinical Audit Planning Process update.

Note: this report does not require a cover sheet due to sufficient information provided.