

## Audit & Assurance Committee Chair's Highlight Report to Council of Governors

<b>Subject:</b>	Audit and Assurance Committee	<b>Date</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> May 2024
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Manjeet Gill		
<b>Approved By:</b>	Manjeet Gill		
<b>Presented By:</b>	Manjeet Gill		
<b>Purpose:</b>			
This paper summarises the key highlights from the Audit and Assurance Committee Meeting held on 18 <sup>th</sup> April 2024.		<b>Assurance</b>	Substantial Assurance

<b>Matters of Concern or Key Risks Escalated for Noting / Action</b>	<b>Major Actions Commissioned / Work Underway</b>
<p>First follow up implementation rate of IA actions is 72% against the target of 75% with resulting impact on the HOIA Opinion. Positive Assurance on lessons learned and planned actions to strengthen the internal processes to track progress.</p>	<p>A Review of the Committee effectiveness process will look at how this could be developed alongside the Committee Maturity Review planned this year.</p>
<b>Positive Assurances to Provide</b>	<b>Decisions Made (include BAF review outcomes)</b>
<p>Interim Head of Internal Audit Opinion for 2023/24 received and will inform the Annual Governance Statement when finalised. Progress update on the draft Annual Report and Annual Governance Statement (AGS) preparation. Register of Conflicts of Interest. Assurance received on the process and that no breaches had been identified. Positive progress reported on timely renewal of non-clinical Trust policies. Medicines Stocktake and process for control. Progress with draft Annual Accounts and the Going Concern statement, Valuation Process, Accounting Policies and Standards and IFRS16 and how that impacts on our PFI accounting, with no impact compared to the previous IFRS15 standard.</p>	<p>The updates to the Standing Financial Instructions and Scheme of Delegations were approved and a recommendation agreed for them to be ratified by the Board of Directors at its meeting in May 2024.</p>

Losses and Special payments, with assurance on how to improve debt collection and prevent debt.  
Employment Tribunal Settlement. The process, decisions and lessons learnt.  
Data Security Protection Toolkit. Assurance on progress with indicators showing 83/108 complete as at 17.04.24 with training compliance on track to achieve 92%.  
Assurance received on the timeline and progress of the current 2023/2024 Quality Account

**Comments on effectiveness of the meeting**

Well-presented reports and assurance, helping understanding of some complex accounting and governance standards, in order to effectively carry out assurance role.

**Items recommended for consideration by other Committees**

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