

Audit and Assurance Committee Chair’s Highlight Report to Board

Subject:	Audit and Assurance Committee	Date:	19 th September 2024
Prepared By:	Manjeet Gill – Chair of Audit and Assurance Committee		
Approved By:	Manjeet Gill		
Presented By:	Manjeet Gill		
Purpose:			
		Assurance	Substantial Assurance

Matters of Concern or Key Risks Escalated for Noting / Action	Major Actions Commissioned / Work Underway
<p>External Audit Digital Fees – A proposed increase in the external audit fees due to digital costs were questioned and escalated for clarification of process for fees increase, VFM and decision-making process.</p>	<p>Further assurance on the PA consulting Intervention and Investigation work, particularly about ‘grip and control.’</p> <p>Following on from the emerging themes report as part of the counter fraud assurance, further consideration was requested of the emerging themes and benchmarking information to identify areas for further proactive work.</p> <p>Further assurance on how actions commissioned in high light reports assured as completed. Assurance on process for operational risks and strategic risk. It was recognised this needed to be proportionate.</p>
Positive Assurances to Provide	Decisions Made <i>(include BAF review outcomes)</i>
<p>Substantial Assurance for the Internal Audit Progress report, Register of Interest, outstanding Internal Audit Actions, Speaking Up Activity, Counter Fraud Progress report, Non-Clinical Policies, single tender waivers and losses and payment reports.</p> <p>Positive Assurance for the external audit progress report, other than the area of digital fees escalated above.</p> <p>Positive assurance on the Risk Committee quadrant report</p>	

Limited Assurance for the Outpatients, Appointments and Remote Consultations audit. Assurance was proved on the management response and actions to address audit recommendations.	
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Comments on effectiveness of the meeting

Feedback from Grant Thornton as part of the well led review observation would be provided to the Chair and part of the final report. Governor feedback was around the external audit additional fees, importance of emphasis on SMART objectives and capacity related risks.

Items recommended for consideration by other Committees

Finance Committee to note the additional fees indicated in relation to external audit.

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