

## Audit Committee - Chair's Highlight Report to Board

<b>Subject</b>	Audit and Assurance Report	<b>Date:</b> 07/12/2023
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Sally Brook Shanahan, Director of Corporate Affairs	
<b>Approved By:</b>	Manjeet Gill, Non-Executive Director	
<b>Presented By:</b>	Manjeet Gill, Non-Executive Director	
<b>Purpose:</b>		
To provide assurance and any escalations to the Board from the meeting of the Audit Committee held on 23 <sup>rd</sup> November 2023	<b>Assurance</b>	The reports and presentations received gave good assurance. Further work on compliance of DOI were agreed

<b>Matters of Concern or Key Risks to Escalate</b>	<b>Major Actions Commissioned / Work Underway</b>
<p>Absence of a representative from the Finance Team.</p> <p>The time taken (&gt;10 working days) to agree the Terms of Reference for some IA Reviews and the risk of normalising a non-compliance culture.</p> <p>The risk of adverse impact on the HOIA Opinion due to the reduction in the timely completion of IA Actions, reported as 69% on the meeting date with the expectation of an increase to 71% by the end of November.</p>	<p>To assess whether a suggestion from the ICB that its representative attend a future A&amp;AC meeting is appropriate.</p> <p>A report detailing possible changes to the IA Plan 2023/24 to be presented to the next meeting (18/01/24) for decision.</p> <p>Completion of the FTSU self-review tool underway (April 2024 deadline).</p>
<b>Positive Assurances to Provide</b>	<b>Decisions Made (include BAF review outcomes)</b>
<p>Jess Townsend introduced as the new External Auditor reporting to Richard Walton.</p> <p>Confirmation the MSK Service Review was received by the Quality Committee.</p> <p>Progress with the number of Declarations of Interests made, with concerns about the failure of some senior staff to declare to be addressed in the next report.</p>	<p>To appoint Andrew Rose-Britton as Committee Vice Chair.</p> <p>To avoid duplication, the removal of the Procurement Annual Report (AACWP 34) from the Committee's Workplan as it is received by the Finance Committee and the Risk Committee.</p> <p>Not to accept the changes proposed to the Committee's Terms of Reference around membership and agreement to make some other minor amendments.</p>
<b>Comments on Effectiveness of the Meeting</b>	
A rigorous and appropriately challenging meeting.	