

Trust Board Public Meeting: Wednesday 11 May 2016
TB2016.48

Title	Audit Committee Chairman's Report
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Status	For information
History	This is a regular report to the Board

Board Lead	Mrs Anne Tutt, Committee Chairman			
Key purpose	Strategy	Assurance	Policy	Performance

A. Introduction

The Audit Committee met on 27 April 2016. The main issues raised and discussed at the meeting are set out below.

B. Significant issues of interest to the Board

1. The Committee's first order of business was to consider all information which was relevant to preparation of the Trust's Annual Accounts, in advance of the draft Annual Accounts being submitted to the Board. Documentation considered included:
 - Counter Fraud Annual Report;
 - External Audit Progress Report;
 - Annual Internal Audit Plan 2016/17
 - Annual Governance Statement;
 - Financial statements: Representations from management and those charged with governance;
 - Draft Annual Accounts 2015/16; and
 - Draft Quality Account 2015/16;
2. The Committee received a report on progress in the implementation of all agreed internal audit recommendations. Of the total of 421 KPMG recommendations recorded, 85% had been implemented, 5% had been superseded/not agreed, and 10% (14 recommendations) were overdue. Medicines Management remained a high priority for the Trust. Action is being taken to address the outstanding issues identified. The members requested that this action request be reinforced;
3. The Committee considered the Internal Audit Strategic and Operational Plan for 2016/17. The Committee expressed its wish for the internal auditors to continue their focus on deep dive reviews into the Divisions in terms of leadership, and other areas of concern, in the context of the well led framework.
4. The Committee also considered and accepted the Counter Fraud Annual Plan for 2016/17;
5. Draft Annual Reports were submitted for consideration, in respect of the six month period from 1 April to 30 September 2015 as an NHS Trust, and 1 October 2015 to 31 March 2016 as a foundation trust.
6. The Trust's Draft Quality Account was also reviewed. This will be incorporated in the Annual Report relating to the period as a foundation trust, and is due to be submitted to the Secretary of State for Health by 27 May 2016.
7. The Committee considered the draft Annual Governance statement, which forms part the Annual Report, from the Accountable officer, The Chief Executive.
8. The Committee considered the regular report on losses and special payments for the period April 2015 to March 2016.

9. The Committee reviewed the register of single tender waivers for the period April 2012 to March 2016.

C. Key Risks Discussed

The following key risks were discussed:

11. The Committee reviewed changes made to the Board Assurance Framework [BAF] and Corporate Risk Register [CRR] as a result of the year-end review, including the addition of two new risks onto the Corporate Risk Register, one financial and one within the Clinical Support Services division relating to the safe storage of medication.

D. Key decisions taken

The following key decision was made:

12. Having considered all the information relevant to preparation of the Trust's Annual Accounts, the Committee supported submission of the draft Annual Accounts to the Board at its meeting to be held in public on 11 May 2016. The Committee is scheduled to meet on 25 May 2016, to confirm whether it is able to recommend the Annual Accounts 2015/16 for formal adoption by the Board, in advance of submission due by noon on 27 May 2016.

E. Agreed Actions

The Committee agreed the following actions:

13. Executive Directors will be asked to address outstanding issues in relation to internal audit recommendations;

F. Matters deferred for future consideration

14. No matters were deferred for future consideration.

G. Assurance required from/actions required by other Board sub-committees

15. No assurance or action was required by other Board sub-committees on this occasion.

H. Matters to be referred to the Trust Board

16. The Draft Annual Accounts 2015/16 will be submitted to the Board at its meeting held in public on 11 May 2016 and the Draft Annual Reports will be considered further by the Board at its meeting held in private on 11 May 2016.

Recommendation

17. The Trust Board is asked to note the contents of this paper.

Anne Tutt
Audit Committee Chairman

May 2016