

Cover Sheet

Trust Board Meeting in Public: Wednesday 9 March 2022

TB2022.029

Title: Integrated Assurance Committee Report

Status: For Information
History: Regular Reporting

Board Lead: Trust Chair
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Confidential: No
Key Purpose: Assurance

Integrated Assurance Committee Report

1. Purpose

- 1.1. As a Committee of the Trust Board, the Integrated Assurance Committee provides a regular report to the Board on main issues raised and discussed at its meetings.
- 1.2. Since the last report to the Board held in public, the Integrated Assurance Committee had met on 9 February 2022.
- 1.3. Under its terms of reference, the Integrated Assurance Committee is responsible for reporting to the Board items discussed, actions agreed and issues to be referred to the Board, indicating the extent to which the Committee was able to take assurance from the evidence provided and where additional information was required.

2. Key Areas of Discussion

- 2.1. The formal removal of enforcement undertakings was noted by the Committee.
- 2.2. Risks in relation to the recruitment of a new Chief Executive Officer, and their mitigations, were discussed. The process for appointing search consultants was outlined.

Integrated Performance Report

- 2.3. The Committee received this regular report on performance across operational, quality, workforce, digital and financial metrics.
- 2.4. The Committee was updated on two Serious Incidents Requiring Investigation which would be included in future reporting.

System Urgent Care and Emergency Department Complaints

- 2.5. The Chief Nursing Officer (CNO) briefed the Committee on the state of urgent care and the Trust's efforts to find solutions, including escalation to the Place-based Board.
- 2.6. The CNO reported on the analysis of trends from a review of 12 months of complaints. The largest increase in complaints was in relation to waiting times; the data was consistent with other Shelford Trusts and should be seen in the context of a 9% increase in Emergency Department attendance compared to 2019/20. An increase in positive feedback was also noted.
- 2.7. It was noted that the body camera pilot (January-March 2022) was viewed positively by staff and enabled them to respond more quickly to complaints.

Waiting Lists

- 2.8. The Chief Operating Officer reported on progress towards treating the 134 patients who would otherwise have waited 104 weeks by the end of March 2022.

There were concerns about being able to treat 34 of those and the mutual aid was being sought in respect of paediatric anaesthesia.

- 2.9. Radiology, ultrasound and radiotherapy had experienced increased waiting times and outlined the actions taken to reduce these.
- 2.10. Cancer screening was experiencing increased referrals; the Trust continued to concentrate on complex cases with less complex or benign work transferred to other providers.

Other

- 2.11. Figures for Deprivation of Liberty Standards had increased and a briefing session on safeguarding would be arranged to understand the figures in greater detail.
- 2.12. Improvements in trends on falls and ulcers were noted.

Vaccination as a Condition of Deployment (VCOD)

- 2.13. Following the Government's announcement of a consultation, all VCOD activity in the Trust had been paused.
- 2.14. The Committee had a wide-ranging discussion about the impact of this policy on relationships within the Trust and the need to reset and rebuild based on a common goal of delivery safe and excellent services for patients and staff.
- 2.15. The Chief People Officer confirmed that all staff who had resigned as a result of VCOD would be contacted to discuss their situation; work was also ongoing to understand the impact of existing Trust policies on redeployment or self-isolation.

Freedom to Speak Up (FtSU)

- 2.16. The Committee received the six-monthly update report on behalf of the Trust Board, presented by the Acting Lead Guardian.
- 2.17. Members noted the progress made and the positive effect the Lead Guardian and FtSU Champions were having in supporting, advising and signposting staff. Staff engagement was demonstrated not only by cases opened, but by the number of informal contacts.
- 2.18. Members noted the importance of the information members of the FtSU team gathered and suggested ways in which it could link with other staff-related data.

Finance Items

- 2.19. The Chief Finance Officer summarised the state of guidance for the Annual Plan submission 2022/23 and briefed the Committee on the Trust's preparation work.
- 2.20. The Committee reviewed the Financial Governance Review Action Plan and agreed the closure of three completed actions.

Quality Priorities 2022/23

- 2.21. The Chief Medical Officer summarised the proposed Quality Priorities and described the process of selection which had again been impacted by COVID-19.
- 2.22. Before being presented to the Board, the views of the Governors' Patient Experience, Membership and Quality Committee and the Clinical Commissioning Group would be sought.

Other Regular Reporting

- 2.23. The Committee received its regular update reports on infection prevention and control matters, SIRIs and Never Events, the Guardian of Safe Working report and the Board Assurance Framework and Corporate Risk Register Review of Risks.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1. The Trust Board is asked to **note** the Integrated Assurance Committee's report to the Board from its meeting held on 9 February 2022.