

Cover Sheet

Trust Board Meeting in Public: Wednesday 13 September 2023

TB2023.93

Title: Integrated Assurance Committee Report

Status: For Information

History: Regular Reporting

Board Lead: Trust Vice Chair

Author: Laura Lauer, Deputy Head of Corporate Governance

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 the main issues raised and discussed at its meetings.
- 1.2. Since the last report to the Board held in public, the Integrated Assurance Committee has met on 9 August 2023.
- 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

Industrial Action

- 2.1. The Committee was briefed on preparations for further industrial action by Junior doctors that scheduled for 11-15 August. The Committee noted the continued focus on protecting patient safety and safeguarding staff wellbeing.

Elective and Cancer Recovery

- 2.2. The Committee heard that Anne Eden, Regional Director (South East) had visited the Trust and been briefed on the Trust's Quality Improvement approach to elective recovery.
- 2.3. The Chief Operating Officer presented modelling which showed best- and worst-case scenarios and outlined monitoring arrangements in place.
- 2.4. It was noted that mutual aid was not forthcoming from the Integrated Care System as there were system-wide challenges in some specialities. The Committee heard that the risk score in relation to operational recovery had been increased as a result.

Financial Recovery

- 2.5. The Committee noted the Trust was off-track on its financial plan. The Chief Finance Officer presented the initial phase of a recovery programme which had been approved by the Trust Management Executive (TME). The Trust Board would receive a report on the second phase of the recovery programme.
- 2.6. Members sought assurance that the Trust's efficiency plans would deliver by year-end and heard how Divisions were managing their share of delivery. The Trust continued to act prudently and responsibly to balance financial and

operational performance and to communicate appropriately and transparently to stakeholders.

- 2.7. It was noted that the Board would consider a recommendation from TME that Corporate Risk 1118 be increased.

Violence, Bullying and Harassment

- 2.8. The Chief People Officer presented data relating to staff experiencing physical violence and/or bullying and harassment. There was a large disparity between staff experience and the number of incidents reported.
- 2.9. TME had agreed key actions to address this gap. Members expressed their commitment to eradicating incidents of violence, bullying and harassment in the Trust.

Integrated Performance Report

- 2.10. The Committee received this regular report on performance across operational, quality, workforce, digital and financial metrics.
- 2.11. On this occasion a separate report on financial metrics was also received.

Maternity Performance

- 2.12. The Committee heard that stillbirth data had been reviewed by the Care Quality Commission and that no care concerns had been highlighted.
- 2.13. The Acting Director of Midwifery reported on short- and long-term improvements in the service. The Committee noted a decrease in care concerns over the past 15 years.
- 2.14. The Committee reviewed performance data and requested that future reporting be separated out to allow review of performance by hospital or midwife-led unit.

Emerging Risks

- 2.15. The Committee suggested that Executive Directors consider how best to reflect the narrative at national level on targets and the local experience of balancing operational performance and the financial plan to meet those targets.

Other Regular Reporting

- 2.16. The Committee received an update on the 2023-24 Quality Priorities and the first year of work of the Health Inequalities Programme.
- 2.17. The Committee reviewed the Board Assurance Framework and Corporate Risk Register.
- 2.18. Regular update reports from the Guardian of Safe Working Hours and from Divisional and Corporate Performance Reviews were received. The Committee also received regular reporting on infection prevention and control matters and SIRIs and Never Events.

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 August 2023.