

Cover Sheet

Trust Board Meeting in Public: Wednesday 13 July 2022

TB2022.065

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 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 had met on 8 June 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 Committee had the opportunity to review and comment on the Trust's draft Quality Account prior to its submission at the end of June.
- 2.2. A new agenda item to highlight both emerging risks identified during the discussion and any others to which Board members wished to draw attention was introduced. In particular the impact of cost of living pressures on staff and the need to monitor the development of processes for negotiation within the Integrated Care System were noted.
- 2.3. The meeting programme included substantial discussion time with the development of the Trust's annual plan being a key area of focus on this occasion.

Annual Plan

- 2.4. The Committee received a paper briefing it on the latest assessment of the Trust's financial sustainability to support the 2021/22 audit work on value for money and to propose a revised financial plan for 2022/23.
- 2.5. It was noted that the Trust's financial performance had improved during the pandemic with surpluses (on a control total basis) of £3m in each of 2020/21 and 2021/22 compared to a £12m deficit in 2019/20. This improvement was primarily due to the pandemic financial regime but the underlying financial position had also improved.
- 2.6. The Trust's relative efficiency had also improved since 2019/20 from the third quartile of NHS providers for efficiency to the second quartile.
- 2.7. The Committee was briefed on proposals for a revised plan submission in line with the request to all trusts from NHSEI. The risks associated with this plan, including the need for productivity improvements, were discussed by the

Committee which also considered the additional assurance required before final approval could be given by the Board.

- 2.8. The plan was felt to be a reasonable and appropriate one although not without challenges. The need to ensure that relevant elements of the plan could be clearly monitored was emphasised by the Committee.

Integrated Performance Report

- 2.9. The Committee received this regular report on performance across operational, quality, workforce, digital and financial metrics.
- 2.10. The need to closely monitor pay costs was particularly noted by the Committee which also highlighted the productivity information provided and received updates from divisional directors on work to increase productivity across Trust sites.

Performance Reviews

- 2.11. The Q4 Divisional Performance Reviews were discussed by the Committee.
- 2.12. The Committee took assurance from the Divisional Performance Reviews and noted that the reporting provided improved clarity regarding both the points raised at individual meetings and the cross-cutting issues that had emerged.

Deep Dive on Quality Improvement Programme

- 2.13. The Committee had the opportunity to receive an overview of this Programme and to discuss the approach. The emphasis of the Programme was for front line staff to drive changes based on their knowledge and expertise but making use of a standard methodology.
- 2.14. It was agreed that the Committee would be updated on progress at appropriate points during the year.

Other Regular Reporting

- 2.15. The Committee received its regular update reports on the work of the Clinical Governance Committee, infection prevention and control matters, SIRIs and Never Events, and the Board Assurance Framework and Corporate Risk Register.

3. Key Actions

- 3.1. The Annual Plan was to be further developed for approval at an additional meeting of the Trust Board.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1. The Trust Board is asked to:
 - **note** the Integrated Assurance Committee's report to the Board from its meeting held on 8 June 2022.