

minutes

E- Meeting of the Audit Committee

Minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 25th June 2024

Committee Members:	John Doyle Nick Brooks Margaret Carney Bob Burgoyne Claudette Elliot	Non-Executive Director (Chair) Non-Executive Director Non-Executive Director Non-Executive Director Non-Executive Director
Committee Attendees:	James Thomson Ben Vinter James Bradley Jing Ma Nigel Woodcock Michelle Moss Georgia Jones Chris Whittingham Jennifer Ohlsson	Chief Finance Officer Director of Risk & Corporate Governance Deputy Chief Finance Officer Head of Financial Services Senior Internal Audit Manager-MIAA Anti-Fraud Specialist-MIAA Key Audit Partner-Grant Thornton Senior Manager-Grant Thornton Senior Executive Assistant (Minutes)
Apologies:	Karen McArdle	
		Action
<p>.</p> <p>1. Apologies for Absence Apologies noted above.</p> <p>2. Declarations of Interest Claudette Elliot, NED declared another NED post at Pennine Care. James Thomson, CFO declared joint Director of Finance post with Clatterbridge Cancer Centre</p> <p>3.1. Annual Governance Statement Director of Risk and Corporate Governance provided an overview of the annual governance statement.</p> <p>There were no significant control issues identified in 2023/24. During the year the Trust has actively managed risks and addressed the actions and organisational learning arising from incidents, maintaining an active</p>		

oversight of the effectiveness of controls in place to mitigate the risk of harm and ensure delivery of operational targets.

There were no further comments or questions.

The Audit Committee recommended approval of the AGS as part of the 2022/23 annual report.

3.2 Head of Audit Opinion

The overall opinion for the period 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024 provides Substantial Assurance, that there is a good system of internal control designed to meet the organisation's objectives, and that controls are generally being applied consistently.

Comments and questions were welcomed and Chair noted that this was a good report and achieving substantial assurance is good.

The waiting list management audit was raised and a request for further assurance that the recommendations that have been identified are being worked on. MIAA confirmed that there is a full action plan to address the risks and this will be followed up in the usual way. CFO suggested having someone come to talk at July Audit Committee who is familiar with the waiting list audit to provide further detail.

3.3 Auditors Findings Report 2023/24

An overview was provided of the auditors findings report from 2023/2024. It was noted that the Audit ran smoothly and well. There are no issues and concerns to sight the committee on.

Chair noted that recommendations will be brought back to the Audit Committee in time, and it is good to see that the audit has gone smoothly.

3.4 Audit Annual Report 2022/23

Georgia Jones provided an overview of the audit annual report for 2023/2024.

No significant weaknesses have been identified with regard to financial sustainability. Two improvements have been identified for recommendation to further strengthen arrangements, relating to developing the medium-term financial plan with system partners and focusing of delivering recurrent efficiencies.

In terms of governance and improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness there were no risks of significant weakness identified.

Chair noted that improvement areas are being looked at as Board and it was also noted that this is a key feature at Integrated Performance Committee. Both issues are noted in the BAF and governance framework.

3.5 Review Audited Annual Report & Accounts and Financial Statements 2023/2024

Audit Committee colleagues were asked to note the annual report circulated prior to the meeting, which includes the annual accounts.

Chair noted that the NHSE deadline is Friday 28th June 2024 and the team are hoping to have this finalised tomorrow.

The Audit Committee agreed to recommend approval of the annual report and accounts to the Board of Directors.

4. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Tuesday 9th July 2024, 8.30am-10.30am