

Agenda item 3.i

Report to:	Board of Directors	Date: 3 February 2022.
Report from:	Chair of the Quality & Risk Committee	
Principal Objective/ Strategy and Title	GOVERNANCE: To update the Board on discussions at the Quality & Risk Committee	
Board Assurance Framework Entries	675, 730, 742, 1929, 2532, 3040	
Regulatory Requirement	Well Led/Code of Governance:	
Equality Considerations	To have clear and effective processes for assurance of Committee risks	
Key Risks	None believed to apply	
For:	Insufficient information or understanding to provide assurance to the Board	

1. Significant issues of interest to the Board

1.1 Quality. We continue to be able to report no trends in safety incidents or other evidence to suggest that the current stresses from covid-19 on staffing etc. are having a significant effect on quality. No news in this respect is no small achievement, and a source of strong assurance.

1.2 Papworth School. We received the strategy development concept paper for the school, and while noting that it will be revised following discussion among the EDs, agreed that it was reassuring to see a strategy document clearly setting out some of the main choices. We very much welcome this format. Areas of the strategy requiring significant further work include the proposed electronic learning platform. The committee suggested that future iterations of strategy documents for the school also clearly set out risks and potential challenges so that the concept begins to be tested before moving further ahead.

1.3 Anti-microbial report. We noted that the use of anti-microbials seems to have fallen slightly in the past year and looks likely to fall again this year. This encouraging trend has been attributed partly to anti-microbial ward rounds and funding for an AMS pharmacist. Some areas of prescribing at Papworth differ from other specialist centres and warrant further investigation so we welcomed the capacity to do this.

1.4 BAF. We noted the policy framework for the BAF, and welcome likely revisions to BAF reporting expected to be discussed by the Board in March which we hope will bring more conceptual clarity.

1.5 Establishment setting. The committee was pleased to ratify the policy for establishment setting. Especially given current pressures, we have been concerned to ensure that staffing ratios are right. The policy formalises a rigorous process for assessment. We

recognise, however, that there will always be a need for an element of professional judgement. We supported the Chief Nurse's suggestion that the policy could be supplemented with a procedure for escalation of any emerging issues.

- 1.6 Against the background of a growing waiting list, we welcomed discussion at the CDC about the extent to which some processes may be slowing patient flow, and the need to re-examine these where they add little value.
- 1.7 We noted the extraordinary range of activity around workforce – the Compassionate and Collective Leadership Programme including EDI and Health and Wellbeing - which despite the pressures from Covid continues to make progress.

2. Key decisions or actions taken by the Quality & Risk Committee

Quality Strategy. We agreed to defer completion of the quality strategy which has been delayed by the Covid-19 response. This will also allow time to take account of the new ICS quality strategy.

Ratification of Establishment setting policy. See above.

3. Matters referred to other committees or individual Executives

None.

4. Recommendation

The Board of Directors is asked to note the contents of this report.