1. Purpose

The Board Assurance Framework (BAF) forms a part of the overall risk management and assurance process of the Trust and allows the Board to maintain oversight of the principal risks to delivery of the Trust’s strategic objectives.

2. Background

Risk management is an integral part of good management practice. Risks that arise within the Trust are assessed using the NPSA model risk assessment matrix (Appendix C) and are reported through the DATIX system. Risks that are escalated to the BAF are managed through the relevant Trust Committees and have an identified Executive lead. Executive Directors review their open BAF risks on a monthly basis and Trust Committees provide assurance through their reports to the Board that they have sufficient information and understanding to provide oversight of their risks.

The BAF report maps all open BAF risks to our strategic objectives risk by number and severity of risk. The BAF tracker reports included at Appendix A and B set out BAF risks within and above risk appetite. The BAF tracker includes an indicator for movements in month, a long term trend line for each open risk, and identifies the Executive Lead and the Committee responsible for each BAF risk.

An executive summary is included on slide 1 setting out key changes in individual BAF risks. In March there has been improvement in the average risk rating against three strategic objectives: delivery of continuous quality improvement (SO 1.1); delivery of activity plans and meeting patient targets (SO 1.2) and delivering a safe and effective move (SO 3.1). These three strategic objectives continue to have the highest levels of residual risks reported in the BAF. The movement in the average risk rating for strategic objectives is shown in the table on slide three.

3. Recommendation:

The Board is requested to review the BAF report and consider the level of assurance provided through the Board Committee structure and whether there is any requirement to further revise BAF risk assessments.