

Agenda item 3.iv

Report to:	Board of Directors	Date: 2 July 2020
Report from:	Chair of the Audit Committee	
Principal Objective/ Strategy and Title	GOVERNANCE: To update the Board of Directors on discussions at the Audit Committee meeting on 4 and 17 June 2020	
Board Assurance Framework Entries	FSRA BAF (Unable to maintain financial, operational and clinical sustainability)	
Regulatory Requirement	Regulator licensing and Regulator requirements	
Equality Considerations	Equality has been considered but none believed to apply	
Key Risks	Non-compliance resulting in financial penalties	
For:	Information	

1. Significant issues of interest to the Board

The Audit Committee has met on two occasions in the month of June: on the 4th and 17th. Both meetings were dedicated to reviewing Internal Audit's Annual Report, External Audit's Reports, the Annual Report and Annual Accounts.

It was evident before the start of the meeting on the 4th that it would not be possible to recommend to the Board the signing off of the accounts as there were several tasks that were outstanding. Thus, the Audit Committee would not have been able to gain sufficient assurance to suggest approval. It was therefore agreed that the meeting would be devoted to exploring any issues and resolving any queries. An extraordinary meeting would then be held on the 17th for final review and sign off by the Audit Committee.

The meeting on the 17th was held and the accounts were given a final review and then recommended to be approved by the Board at its extraordinary meeting on the 17th to enable the submission of the papers by the deadline of 25 June 2020.

2. Key decisions or actions taken by the Audit Committee

Internal Audit Annual Report

The Audit Committee accepted the Head of Internal Audit opinion that the Trust has an adequate and effective framework for risk management governance and internal control.

External Audit Report

The Audit Committee accepted that the Auditors intended to issue an unqualified audit opinion on the accounts following the Audit Committee adopting them and receipt of the

management representations letter. The Committee noted the Auditors' Formal Independence Letter

Annual Report and Accounts 2019/20

The Annual Report having been reviewed several times was formally approved subject to External Auditors having a final read through. The Annual Governance Statement was also deemed balanced and fair and approved for recommendation to the Board.

The Annual Accounts as signed off by the auditors and Letters of Representation from the Executives were also accepted and approved.

Quality Report

It was noted that the quality report is now not due until December 2020 and that a new timeline will need to be proposed via Quality & Risk Committee to ensure the December deadline is met.

3. Other items of note

Given the circumstances under which the production of the accounts and the audits have taken place; the positive outcome of the reports is to be commended.

4. Recommendation

The Board to note the contents of this report