



Agenda item 3iv

Report to:	Board of Directors	7 February 2019
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 23 January 2019	
Board Assurance Framework Entries	All	
Regulatory Requirement	NHS Foundation Trust Code of Governance Scheme of Delegation/ToR	
Equality Considerations	Equality has been considered but none believed to apply	
Key Risks	Insufficient information or understanding to provide assurance to the Board	
For:	Information	

1. Significant Issues of interest to the Committee

The Audit Committee met on 23 January 2019.

2. Key Decisions taken by the Audit Committee

The committee received (from RSM) and approved both the Local Counter Fraud Work Plan for 2019/20 and the Annual Internal Audit Plan for 2019/20.

The committee received (from KPMG) and approved the Annual Indicative Audit Plan for both the Trust and the Charity.

The committee also received and approved the reviews of the following annual reports:

- Standing Financial Instructions
- Scheme of Delegation
- Standing Orders
- Audit Committee Terms of Reference

As part of the review of the terms of reference there was a discussion around the committee's Annual Self-assessment. The conclusion was that the overall assessment was "Adequate" though it was suggested that that to improve the rating to Strong the

committee should consider seeking independent assurance from a wider range of sources.

Finally the committee approved minor amendments to the Anti-Fraud and Bribery Policy

3. Other Items of note

The Internal Audit progress report highlighted an issue with business continuity, specifically that RSM were unable to obtain sufficient evidence that Business Units within Cardiology were compliant with the Performance Management and Escalation Policy. Furthermore there was no evidence of local KPI scorecards being in place. This was of concern to the committee. Following further discussion between committee members after the meeting it was decided as this was such an important service for the trust that RSM's full report should be circulated to members for inspection.

The committee received a progress report on implementation of the updated Management of Conflicts of Interest Policy which listed the interests of 75 'decision makers'. After discussion it was agreed that in the interests of transparency our consultant staff who could be described as "influencers", particularly with regard to procurement, should also be added to those defined as decision makers. The Board should be aware that this will effectively put the names and interests of such clinicians in the public domain.

4. Recommendation

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

David Dean
Chair Audit Committee
25 January 2019