

**Agenda item 3iv**

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>Board of Directors</b>	<b>Date: 6 February 2020</b>
<b>Report from:</b>	<b>Chair of the Audit Committee</b>	
<b>Principal Objective/ Strategy and Title</b>	<b>GOVERNANCE: To update the Board on discussions at the Performance Committee meeting dated 23 January 2020</b>	
<b>Board Assurance Framework Entries</b>	<b>All</b>	
<b>Regulatory Requirement</b>	<b>Well Led/Code of Governance:</b>	
<b>Equality Considerations</b>	<b>To have clear and effective processes for assurance of Committee risks</b>	
<b>Key Risks</b>	<b>None believed to apply</b>	
<b>For:</b>	<b>Insufficient information or understanding to provide assurance to the Board</b>	

**1. Significant issues of interest to the Board**

1.1 Much of the business focussed on plans for work to be undertaking during 2020-21 as well as annual reviews of the Trust's governance arrangements.

**2. Key decisions or actions taken by the Audit Committee**

2.1 The Committee considered and approved the following:

- Local counter fraud and internal audit work plans for 2020-21.
- External audit plan for 2020-21
- The Committee reviewed and approved the Board Assurance Framework (BAF) policy and noted the Committee's increased role in scrutiny of the BAF.
- The Committee undertook its annual review of the Trust's Standing Financial Instructions, Scheme of Delegation, Standing Orders and these were approved with minor amendments.
- The Committee also reviewed and approved the Committee Terms of Reference and discussed the Committee Annual Self-Assessment; this received an initial rating of 'strong'.

**3. Matters referred to other committees or individual Executives**

3.1 The Committee understood that the clinical audit was behind plan but that an action plan had already been developed to cover this. There was discussion on whether the Committee should become more involved in oversight of clinical audit. The conclusion was that it should not. However the Chair was requested to seek assurance from the Quality & Risk (Q&R) Committee that all mandatory clinical audits had been undertaken

and it was agreed that this could come via the Q&R Chair's report to a subsequent Audit Committee.

#### **4. Other items of note**

- 4.1 The Committee received assurance that there was sufficient support within the finance team to ensure that the annual external audit could be completed satisfactorily and on plan.

The Committee noted the Forward Planner and it was suggested that this should be reviewed to see if it was possible to spread the Committee's work more evenly throughout the year.

The annual meeting between Audit Committee members and both internal and external auditors will take place following the March meeting.

The next Audit Committee meeting is scheduled for 12 March 2020.

#### **5. Recommendation**

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