

BOARD SUBCOMMITTEE ASSURANCE REPORT

Presented for:	Information
Committee Name:	Audit Committee
Presented by:	Gareth Tipton, Non-Executive Director
Date of Committee meeting:	18 January 2021

Points of Escalation

No points of escalation.

Key Issues

- Losses and special payments were reviewed and noted, including waivers for standing orders. The Committee was assured the process is clearly documented and managed.
- The Committee received a verbal update on Gifts and Hospitality; a detailed report on G&H given/received/not accepted will be provided at the next meeting. The Committee discussed the gifts that the Trust had received from well-wishers relating to Covid.
- The indicative timetable for the 2020/21 Annual Report and Accounts was noted; 15 June '21 is currently the expected submission date for the report and accounts to NHSI.
- The Committee discussed progress against the internal audit plan and following up actions. Approval was given to bring forward the review of Workforce reporting. The Safeguarding Children audit received Reasonable Assurance.
- The Local Counter Fraud report was scrutinised. The Committee asked that additional focus be applied to the length that some cases had been open; a 'time' to close' metric may be helpful to track going forward. The Committee asked for further transparency on actions, including sanctions relating to substantiated cases. This will be reviewed again at the next meeting. Emerging risks were noted.
- KMPG provided a progress update; the Committee noted that the end of year audit would once again be conducted remotely due to Covid risks.

Risks

- Progress was reviewed against the Risk Task & Finish Group (RTFG) Risk Management priorities. The Committee agreed the recommendation that the RTFG is closed and outstanding actions are monitored through the Committee.
- The Committee agreed to review harmonisation of the risk policies and progress with risk training at the next meeting.
- A verbal update was provided on the work to review aged risks. The Committee asked that long standing risks be reviewed carefully as to their continued applicability and that where risks have materially changed, these are closed, and new risks opened where relevant.

Spotlight Outstanding Practice and Innovation

Nothing to share.

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Date:	1 February 2021