

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Key summary points from the meeting held on **Friday 9 December 2017**:

1. Internal Audit

- (i) **Budgetary control audit** – this audit relates to the 2016/17 audit plan. The audit was delayed due to an extension to the scope; management comments have now been finalised. Due to the delay in receiving this report, it was agreed that the report will be issued to the Audit Committee members prior to the next meeting in February.

Recommendations have already largely been implemented and will be included as part of the follow up work in the next quarter.

- (ii) **Payments and creditors** – it was noted that substantial assurance was given for this audit with one low priority recommendation. This audit reflects the controls operated by the Finance Department

- (iii) **Private Patients** – The Local Counter Fraud Specialist presented the results of this audit. The Committee had an appetite for a transparent process to protect Trust and staff as well as patients and asked for several more rigorous actions than had been proposed. In particular the committee felt it important transparency was crucial in Fertility, where the Trust had recently invested scarce NHS resources in enhancing the facilities. The Committee recommended that the Executive Directors need to agree a private patient approach, which should be considered during the current business planning round. This will be discussed at Executive Directors in January

Following this a robust policy needs to be developed and both strategy and policy will be recommended to the Board.

2. External Audit

KPMG outlined their audit plan, and reported that the finance team always had the papers prepared in a timely manner and are responsive to queries, making the audit of the accounts relatively straightforward.

3. Business Continuity Update

Stewart Mason, Emergency Planning and Resilience Officer attended to give an update on progress since he came into post earlier this year. He believes that progress is being made in embedding emergency and business continuity planning. He has recently delivered training to the Emergency Departments with further training planned; a multi-agency desk top exercise will be delivered early next year.

Internal Audit will be carrying out work on business continuity in the next quarter.

4. Board Assurance Framework

The Audit Committee discussed Risk Ref 1204 relating to the Maternity service evidencing a robust approach to learning and quality and it was noted that assurance from NHS Resolution would be forwarded to Clare Jowett. There was also discussion around Risk Ref 951 about Working with our Partners to reduce the number of delayed transfers of care but the Committee agreed the status remained unchanged. The Committee noted that the recent audit on Payments & Creditors showed substantial assurance although the Budgetary Control had received Limited assurance but both would be noted on the BAF in relation to Risk Ref 670 to address the structural imbalance in the Trust's I&E position

Name of Chair: Clive Deadman

Date report prepared: 11 December 2017