

BOARD PAPER - NHS ENGLAND

Title: Audit and Risk Assurance committee feedback

From: Ed Smith, Chair of the Audit and Risk Assurance committee

Purpose of paper:

- To inform the Board of the work undertaken by the Audit and Risk Assurance committee.

Actions required by the Board:

- To note the work of the Audit and Risk Assurance committee.

Report of the Audit & Risk Assurance committee

1. The Audit & Risk Assurance committee met on 7 July 2014. Three of the four members were present.
2. The meeting approved the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 20 June 2014, which can be found on the Board committee webpage on the internet at <http://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/audit-risk-ass-comm-mins-200614.pdf>
3. The key points from the meeting which the committee wish to draw to the Board's attention are as follows:
 - *Counter Fraud*

Progress is being made on developing a comprehensive counter fraud plan, based on the identified threats.

Dental fraud and prescription charging fraud are currently not part of the plan, as these areas are subject to separate programmes of work led by the Department of Health.
 - *2013-14 Annual Report & Accounts*

A near final draft of the Annual Report & Accounts was received and reviewed by the committee. Subject to final checking by management and correction of some identified errors the Annual Report & Accounts and letter of representation were recommended to the accounting officer for signature.
 - *2014-15 Month 9 Hard Close*

The committee received and discussed the National Audit Office (NAO) Audit Completion report. It was noted that a key improvement that was required for 2014-2015 was to undertake a hard close and preparation of full financial statements at month 9. Management were requested to produce a detailed plan to deliver full draft accounts at Month 9.
 - *Accountability Systems & Responsibility for End to End Processes*

The committee noted the progress that had been made through the year in developing and embedding accountability systems, but noted some systems still need to mature through the next financial year.

It was also noted that there is a need to ensure that individuals fully understand their responsibilities across end to end processes, including across the wider commissioning system.

4. I am happy to discuss the content of this report, issues otherwise included in the Audit & Risk Assurance committee minutes or other matters of Board concern. In summary, the required Audit & Risk Assurance committee processes and key components of assurance on internal controls are now in operation, but with a full and challenging work programme for management and our assurance providers for the year ahead.

Ed Smith

Audit & Risk Assurance Committee Chair