

BOARD PAPER - NHS ENGLAND

Title: Report of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee to the Board

From: David Roberts, Interim Chair, Audit and Risk Assurance Committee

Purpose of Paper:

- **To update the Board of the meeting of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee held on 14 December 2015**

The Board is invited to:

- **Note the report**
- **Approve the proposed pilot of Government Procurement Cards**

REPORT TO THE BOARD FROM: **Audit and Risk Assurance Committee**

COMMITTEE CHAIR: **David Roberts**

DATE OF COMMITTEE MEETING: **14.12.2015**

1.0 MATTERS FOR THE BOARD'S ATTENTION

1.1 Progress on Internal Audit Programme.

- i. The Committee noted progress on implementation of Internal Audit recommendations. The overdue rate is now 7% but this was considered to be a satisfactory position. The report on conflicts of interest was highlighted as a risk alongside the approach to whistleblowing.
- ii. The Committee considered the risk and control priorities including management's approach to addressing the internal control and risk management issues. This is considered a high priority piece of work and there needs to be significant progress before the 31 March 2016. Management confirmed a substantial piece of work is planned to address the findings and appropriate resource will be found to do undertake the work, leveraging external support if required. Further reports will be made to the next meeting.

1.2 Accountabilities for Data and Cyber Security in the NHS

- i. This is considered a high risk area and the organisation needs to identify the key areas of data and assess how they are being kept secure. Agreement was given to the expanded role of the NHSE SIRO. Progress will be discussed further at the next meeting.

1.3 Resourcing of Programme Delivery

- i. There was concern about whether there is the appropriate skilled capability in the organisation to deliver the major programmes including those required as part of the Five Year Forward View. There is a need to develop a process for integrated programme delivery.

1.4 Half year reporting against the Mandate

- i. The Committee discussed how the information included in the assessment is used both by NHS England and by DH as it can be viewed at different levels.

1.5 Proposal to implement pilot of Government Procurement cards

- i. The Committee considered a case for implementing a pilot of Government Procurement cards. The Committee was supportive of the pilot and recommended that the Board approve this.

2.0 ITEMS FOR THE BOARD'S INFORMATION AND ASSURANCE

- 2.1 In summary, the required Audit & Risk Assurance Committee processes and key components of assurance on internal controls are now in operation but there is work required as noted in paragraph 1.1. However, with a full and challenging work programme for management and our assurance providers for 2015-16, there is considerable effort required to deliver the necessary to deliver the necessary improvements to the overall control environment. The Committee will continue to track progress.

3.0 PROGRESS AGAINST THE COMMITTEE'S ANNUAL WORK PLAN

3.1 The Committee has now set a workplan to cover the period up to March 2017. Further items were identified for consideration by the Committee during 2016. Dates for meetings in 2016 have now been finalised. The plan will remain under continual review by the Committee.

4.0 RECOMMENDATION

4.1 The Board is invited to:

- Note the report
- Approve the proposed pilot of Government Procurement Cards.

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