

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 26 February 2016

The Board is invited to:

- Note the report

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

COMMITTEE CHAIR: **David Roberts**

DATE OF COMMITTEE MEETING: **26.02.2016**

1.0 MATTERS FOR THE BOARD`S ATTENTION

1.1 Progress on Internal Audit Programme.

- i. The Committee noted progress on delivering CSU Service Auditor reports was on track. There was discussion of the self-assessment which CSUs were asked to complete and consideration is to be given to inviting CSUs to attend ARAC where their self-assessment is very different to the findings of the SAR.
- ii. The Committee noted the findings of the Managing Performer Concerns audit and the progress made on implementing the recommendations.
- iii. The Committee noted the progress on the CCG Conflicts of Interest audit. Oversight of this area will be a high priority for the Committee in the next year.
- iv. The Committee noted progress on implementation of Internal Audit recommendations. The overdue rate is now 9% but whilst this has increased since the last meeting, it is considered to be an acceptable position.

1.2 Annual Governance Statement

- i. The Committee noted the draft Governance Statement and acknowledged the very good progress that has been made in preparation for the year end position.

1.3 Month 9 Hard Close

- i. The Committee noted that Month 9 had been delivered successfully. There had been some issues with quality of submissions and Primary Care Co-commissioning and the Better Care Fund (BCF) had emerged as key issues. There will need to be a sharp focus on the pressures around the commissioning system as year-end approaches.

1.4 Governance and Assurance Plan

- i. The Committee noted the good progress on delivering the Governance and Assurance Plan. The next major step will be the issuing of delegation letters which will set out the responsibilities and accountabilities of individuals.

1.5 Accountability for Cyber Security in the NHS

- i. The Committee noted the update paper. Progress is being made on clarifying the accountabilities for cyber security across the NHS. There will need to be consideration of how assurance can be provided over this key area. Oversight of this area will be a priority for the Committee in the next year.

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 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 reviewed the workplan which covers the period up to March 2017. The plan will remain under continual review by the Committee.

4.0 RECOMMENDATION

4.1 The Board is asked to note the report.

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Date: 05.03.2016