

BOARD MEETING

27 April 2017

Paper Title:	Assurance Reports from Committee Chairs
Section:	Public - Information
Lead Director:	Committee Chairs
Paper Author:	Committee Chairs
Agenda Item:	9
Presented For:	Assurance

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

To update the Board on any significant issues arising from Board Committee meetings since the last Board meeting in March 2017, namely the Audit Committee, the Mental Health Legislation Committee and the Finance Business and Investment Committee.

RELATED RISK(S):

None

FINANCIAL IMPLICATION:

There are no financial implications arising from the content of this paper.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Board:

- notes the issues highlighted from the meetings, seeking any further clarification from the Committee Chairs.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

None

PREVIOUS MEETINGS/COMMITTEES:

Highlight whether the paper has been discussed at any of the following meetings:

Audit Committee*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Quality & Safety Committee	<input type="checkbox"/>	Remuneration Committee	<input type="checkbox"/>	Finance, Business & Investment Committee*	<input type="checkbox"/>
Executive Management team	<input type="checkbox"/>	Directors' Meeting	<input type="checkbox"/>	Charitable Funds Committee	<input type="checkbox"/>	MH Legislation Committee*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

*in part at the meeting

Assurance Reports from Committee Chairs

Background

This paper provides a short update on any significant issues raised at Board Committees since the last Board meeting in March 2017.

Key items from the Audit Committee held on 11 April 2017 and the Mental Health Legislation Committee held on 20 April 2017 can be found below. A written report from the Finance, Business and Investment Committee held on 26 April 2017 will be provided by the Committee Chair at the Board meeting.

Audit Committee, 11 April 2017

Internal audit

The Committee received three "significant assurance" reports from Internal Audit, covering:

- Financial Systems
- Informatics Capacity
- Charitable Funds

There were no "limited assurance" or "no assurance" reports.

The Committee approved the internal audit plan for the next three years and gained assurance that this has been informed by analysis of the BAF and strategic risks.

The Committee was assured by the reduction during the year of the number of outstanding internal audit follow-up items.

The Committee received early indication that there will be a "Significant Assurance" statement in the annual opinion provided by the Head of Internal Audit.

External audit

The Committee received assurances that adequate planning is in place for the audit of the annual accounts for the year to 31 March 2017. Additional assurances were received from the external auditors that they are informed about changes in the trust's financial forecast and are able to deal with any audit implications which may arise.

External audit work to date was reported as satisfactory with no items required to be raised with the Committee.

Other

The committee also received assurances in respect of the following:

- Counter-fraud activity
- Losses and special payments - no significant untoward items.
- Waiver of standing orders - only used where necessary and in accordance with laid down policy

- Gifts and hospitality - no entries in the register for 2016/17

David Banks
Chair, Audit Committee

Mental Health Legislation Committee, 20 April 2017

Issues where MHLC recommends attention at Board

The committee noted a number of signals that the current arrangements for meeting MHA requirements were struggling to match demands. There had been substantial, sustained, increases in the numbers of applications for review under sections two and three of the act in particular. Many hospital manager hearings were being overtaken by scheduled health tribunal hearings. It was also clear that a staff absence had made it difficult to prepare some agenda items.

We heard that a business case, aimed at addressing the issues, was to be considered by the Executive.

The Annual Report, which will be on the board agenda, provides detail of the rise in demands.

Issues where MHLC can provide assurance to Board

A recent unannounced inspection of Heather Ward had given rise to a generally positive report, although it was noted that some procedural issues noted in an earlier report remained a concern. The committee asked for further attention to the mechanisms for sharing findings with all ward managers, and for assuring the delivery of agreed actions.

It was noted that MCA training continues to be well-attended, and that work on the pilot work with district nurse specialists was progressing.

The committee was assured by a report which indicated effective preparations for the implementation of recent changes in legislation affecting police and MH working arrangements. It asked that a fully developed implementation project, with SMART objectives, be shared with members of the committee, and that the strength of engagement arrangements with NY Police be checked.

Rob Vincent
On behalf of Nadira Mirza
Chair, Mental Health Legislation Committee