

# **Audit Committee (AC) Assurance Report to the Board of Directors**

From meeting on 2 September 2019

## **Assurances**

From Internal Audit, the Committee received one “high assurance” report and two “significant assurance” reports, covering:

- Nurse revalidation (high)
- Safer staffing (significant)
- Risk management framework (significant)

The Committee noted that, whilst many actions arising from internal audit reports were being cleared in accordance with the proposed timescales, the number of actions delayed beyond their original dates had increased. The Committee noted that, where there are delays, these have good reason, but it was agreed that the clearing of action points more promptly would be escalated through the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and that the Committee chair would raise the clearance of outstanding action points relating to NICE guidance compliance with the Chair of the Quality and Safety Committee.

Assurances were also received in relation to:

- Counter-fraud activity
- Losses and special payments - no significant untoward items.
- Waiver of standing orders - only used where necessary and in accordance with Standing Financial Instructions (SFIs)
- Progress on IMT items for starters and leavers (in relation to a “limited assurance” internal audit report)
- Progress towards charging of non-qualifying overseas visitors.

## **Board to note**

The Committee noted the overall significant assurance from the internal audit report on the Trust’s risk management framework and agreed that the Board Assurance Framework (BAF) and Corporate Risk Register provided assurance. The Committee noted the importance of the Board of Directors understanding risk appetite and tolerance within the Trust.

The Committee reviewed the accounts and annual report of the Trust’s charitable funds and noted the clean audit report thereon from external auditors, KPMG. The Committee’s approval of the relevant documents, subject to a few minor changes, was passed on to the Charitable Funds Committee, which met immediately afterwards.