

Escalation and Assurance Report

Report from: Audit Committee

Date the meeting: 8 June 2021

Key discussion points and matters to be escalated from the discussion at the meeting:

Alert:

- No matters to highlight.

Advise:

- Positive assurance was received from the **Information and Data Assurance Annual Report** recognising the significant work undertaken on the robustness of systems and processes across the Trust. One outstanding assurance template related to workforce issues (ESR) and consideration would be given to whether the report should be presented to the Workforce & Equality Committee or the Quality & Safety Committee for additional scrutiny.

Assure:

Strong and effective relationships between management, internal and external auditors was evident from the Committee papers and discussion which focused on the close down of the 2020/21 Annual Report and Accounts prior to approval by Trust Board and submission to NHS Improvement on 10 June. The following papers are highlighted:

- **Annual Accounts and Letter of Representation:** the external auditor provided an unqualified (clean) opinion on the annual accounts and positive commentary on its value for money assessment.
- **Head of Internal Audit Annual Opinion:** the internal auditor provided an opinion of significant assurance that there was a good system of governance, risk management and internal control designed to meet the organisation's objectives.
- **Annual Report:** the Committee commended the report and noted some minor amendments to the Annual Report (including the Annual Governance Statement) which would be presented at the June Board meeting.
- **Quality Report:** the Committee commended the report recognising that positive statements had been received from key stakeholders (Bradford and Craven CCG and Bradford Healthwatch) and suggested a few minor amendments to the content of the report.

All these documents are recommended for approval by the Trust Board at its meeting on 10 June under agenda items 17 and 18.

- **Annual Counter Fraud Report:** the Committee received positive assurance from the Annual Counter Fraud Report which summarised the counter-fraud work completed during 2020/21.

Risks discussed:

- All corporate risks in the Board Assurance Framework and Corporate Risk Register as part of the discussion on the Annual Governance Statement.

New risks identified:

- None.

Report completed by: Andrew Chang, Chair of Audit Committee
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