

Escalation and Assurance Report

Report from the: Finance, Business & Investment Committee

Date of meeting: 11 August 2021

Report to the: Board of Directors

For further information please see the Care Trust Integrated Governance Guide.

Key escalation and discussion points from the meeting

Alert:

No issues were noted that require further discussion or action.

Advise:

- The Committee reviewed June 2021 performance dashboard and noted the improving picture on dental treatment waiting times. Out of area placements and Covid driven pressures impacting performance across services such as IAPT recovery were highlighted. Trajectory agreed for 2021/22, based on the continuation of cohorting arrangements, does not meet the national expectation of the elimination of out of area placements.
- The impact of these pressures, together with an increase in NHS efficiency requirements, represent key risks to the H2 financial plan. The Committee reviewed work that has taken place to identify cost improvement and transformation opportunities. Assurance was also received on the governance of these programmes, with the establishment of a Sustainability Programme Board viewed as a positive step. Whilst noting the relatively early stages of this work, the Sustainability Programme Board provides an opportunity to identify multi-year improvement opportunities with trust wide ownership and accountability for delivering these opportunities. The Committee asked for on-going updates on progress to be reviewed at both the Committee and Board.
- The Committee received a positive update on work taking place to ensure workforce related elements impacting the financial plan are appropriately reviewed and reflected in the H2 plan. The Committee noted the planned joint session in September between this committee and the Workforce & Equality Committee to review these elements.
- An update was provided on the West Yorkshire Provider Collaborative Contracts. The Committee noted that timescales for go-live dates were deferred to 1st October. Final business cases will become available following NHSE agreed contract offers. The Committee received assurance on key risks and mitigations. It was agreed that further review would be required to gain required assurance before the Committee could recommend approval to the Board. This would either take place through September governance meetings or through a separate one-off meeting.

Assure:

- The Committee reviewed the financial position to month 3 for both the Trust (£28k surplus) and the ICS, noting high confidence in achieving control totals for H1. The Committee endorse the quarterly submission made to NHSEI on 15th July and recommended this for retrospective approval by Trust Board in September.
- Following renewal of the Trust’s Enterprise Agreement with Microsoft, the Committee received assurances around the management of licenses, noting further planned improvement actions ahead of the true-up exercise on the anniversary date of July 2022. The Committee received an update in position for 2020/21 (subject to audit) and noted the increase in the surplus position (before impairment) largely driven by additional funding. The Committee also noted the capital overspend which has been agreed at ICS level.
- Progress against the Green Plan was reviewed and the Committee noted plans to develop a carbon reduction strategy in Autumn.
- The Committee reviewed and approved the Health, Safety and Security Annual Report for 2020-2, noting a 23% year on year reduction in incidents. The increase in assaults against staff was discussed and the Committee requested that discussions with Audit Committee members on the risk of violence and aggression are appropriately reflected in the strategy once concluded.
- The Fire Safety Annual report for 2020-21 was reviewed and approved, with assurance received on activity which has taken place. The Committee requested further detail on nature of outstanding actions, including clarification of how many are regarded as high risk.
- The Committee reviewed the contract pipeline and planned actions, including further actions for loss making contracts. The Committee requested a more detailed review for the significant contracts in future meetings.

Risks discussed:

- Risk 5 – To deliver a financially sustainable organisation

New risks identified:

- None identified

Report completed by: Maz Ahmed
11 August 2021