

Escalation and Assurance Report

Report from the: Finance, Business & Investment Committee

Date of meeting: 23 September 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 the YTD financial position, which is in line with plan (£8k surplus) and received assurance over the H1 planned breakeven position. The capital position is expected to achieve its forecast outturn of £6m. ICS level financial position for H1 is expected to be favourable to the breakeven plan.
- The Committee approved the annual submission for the National Costs Collection (NCC) (previously reference costs), receiving assurance over the costing processes and procedures that are in place to capture the information in the submission. A key element of assurance came from the Ernst & Young review in 2019 which gave the Trust a substantial assurance opinion, with an action plan for recommendations. One recommendation related to having a documented costing strategy, which was approved by the Committee. However, the Committee noted concerns over the accuracy of data capture related to activity data at patient level. The Committee request a more detailed update from the newly formed Data Quality Steering Group in the November meeting. This update will cover the accountability of governance of data in the Trust.
- The Committee received assurance on the Tier 4 CAMHS and Adult Secure Provider Collaborative, noting additional recurrent funding offers which have materially improved risks & mitigations. Ahead of approval by the Board, the Committee requested a paper that summarised the reasons for change, the clinical assumptions, financial implications and key sensitivities. In particular, the Committee asked for further assurance on the clinical assumptions, with an intention for these to be reviewed at Quality & Safety Committee. Further update on the ATU Provider Collaborative will be received at the November meetings.
- Financial planning guidance is expected for w/c 20th September. The Committee noted a number of risks that could impact the Trust including local authority pay award, in year efficiency targets and the impact of

Provider Collaboratives. The Committee requested a paper that integrates these risks and associated mitigations into one financial plan so that appropriate assurance can be received. In addition, clarity would be needed on the assumption around non-recurrent funding provided this year.

Assure:

- An update was provided on the Procurement & Digital strategy, as well as the implementation of the Electronic Prescribing & Medicines Administration (ePMA).
As part of the update on the implementation of personal safety devices across community services, noting that usage by colleagues has been challenging despite the personal safety benefits that the devices provide.

Risks discussed:

- Risk 6 – To deliver a financially sustainable organisation

New risks identified:

- None identified

Report completed by: Maz Ahmed
1 October 2021