

Escalation and Assurance Report

Report from: Audit Committee
Date the meeting: 8 February 2022

Agenda Item 15.0

Key discussion points and matters to be escalated from the discussion at the meeting:
Alert:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There were no issues identified that required escalation from the meeting.
Advise:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Audit Committee will recommend to the Council of Governors that it approves the two-year extension to the contract with KPMG for the provision of external audit services. Slippage to the internal audit programme continue to be a concern however the 'must-do' audits to enable a Head of Internal Audit Opinion to be formed are either in train or programmed. Continued support from the Trust to facilitate these audits is welcomed. Undelivered brought forward 2020/21 internal audit days and likely undelivered 2021/22 days is a potential issue for Audit Yorkshire. The Audit Committee will consider the issue in due course.
Assure:
<p>The Audit Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Were assured by the engagement by Trust colleagues leading to improvement in the close out of recommendations arising from internal audit reports. Approved the External Audit plan including the External Auditor fee (£70k). Were updated on the progress of the review of the processes and procedures on wards, in relation to the safe and secure storage of patients' and staff property. Reviewed the accounts close down plans; changes to the Group Accounting Manual; and the approach to related party disclosures and asset valuation. Revised dates for Board and Audit Committee meetings in May/June 2022 will be identified to enable the formal approval process to be completed in line with NHSI deadlines. Reviewed the draft internal audit plan for 2022/23. Audit Yorkshire will consult more widely on the draft plan including board committee chairs. Reviewed the report on losses and compensations; and approved two waivers of Standing Orders and Standing Financial Instructions. Reviewed and considered the reports on seven internal audits of which 5 were rated Significant Assurance and two High Assurance. Received assurance on a counter fraud investigation into a whistle blower's concerns about a consultant's contract. The investigation concluded there was no evidence of fraud.
<p><u>Risks discussed:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risks 2536 and 2046
<p><u>New risks identified:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None.

Report completed by: Andrew Chang, Audit Committee Chair
8 February 2022