

Escalation and Assurance Report (AAA+D)

Report from the: Audit Committee
Date of meeting: 6 April 2023
Report to the: Board of Directors

**Agenda
Item
20**

Key escalation and discussion points from the meeting			
Alert	Action (to be taken)	By Whom	Target Date
N/A			
Advise:			
<p>Bi-annual litigation report was received – noting the number of claims received and closed with the overall volume remaining relatively static. The key bit to advise is the increasing contributions because of increasing scheme payments. Though it can be assured lessons learned from claims are shared across services.</p>			
Assure:			
<p>Annual Accounts, Annual Report, Quality Report timetable in place and on track to deliver the Trusts annual accounts to meet the nationally mandated timescales, additional meeting in place to take the NEDs through a set of accounts.</p> <p>Received an update on the Board Assurance Framework and noted the static position on risks, though recognising they are still significantly above the targeted position.</p> <p>The Committee noted the Losses and Compensations for the period April 22 to February 23 and they were satisfied handling of them, specifically around the special payment received in regard to the VAT on lease cars.</p> <p>Value for money risk assessment report was presented, this identified that from the work undertaken no significant risks were identified in the areas of Governance and Improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness. However, as has been reported in numerous Committees financial sustainability continues to be identified as an area of significant risk. This is not a surprise and the Audit Committee recognise much work is being done by the Finance Committee to address this.</p> <p>Four final Internal audit reports have been agreed with Management since the January Audit meeting and two have been submitted in draft, of those with three provided significant assurance and two with high assurance. One has is in draft with an opinion of Medium, though further work is to be done as the opinion needs aligning with the internal auditors rating system as currently it is based on and external ranking system.</p>			

The Internal Audit plan for 2023/24; Committee Annual Report; & Committee Effectiveness review was presented to the Committee and approved.

Decisions / Recommendations:**Risks discussed:**

- The overarching BAF and the position versus the Trust's targets, specifically SO5 5.1 and SO1 1.1, especially given the value for money risk assessment.

New risks identified:

- Nothing

Report completed by:

Christopher Malish
Committee Chair and Non-Executive Director

26/04/23