

# United Lincolnshire Hospitals

NHS Trust

<b>To:</b>	Trust Board
<b>From:</b>	Interim Director of Finance and Corporate Affairs
<b>Date:</b>	1 March 2016
<b>Standard:</b>	Well Led

<b>Title:</b>	Board Assurance Framework 2015/16
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**Author/Responsible Director:** Trust Secretary/Interim Director of Finance and Corporate Affairs

**Purpose of the Report:** The Board Assurance Framework provides a structure and process that enables the trust to focus on those risks that might compromise the achievement of strategic objectives. The Board are asked to note the latest version of the BAF.

**The Report is provided to the Audit Committee for:**

Information	√
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Assurance	√
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**Summary/Key Points:**

The Trust Board considered options for moving forward with the Board Assurance Framework (BAF) at its board development session in April 2015 facilitated by the Good Governance Institute, following this session the Executive Team met on 21 May and received a report on progress with the review of the Trust Risk Register.

The work with the Good Governance Institute concluded with a proposed format for the 2015/16 BAF which incorporated risks to achievement of corporate objectives and performance trajectory. This approach is aimed at resolving the issues experienced by the assurance committees when reviewing extracts from the BAF and trying to comment on areas which appeared heavily controlled but were still experiencing lower than desired performance.

The revised version aimed to provide a fit for purpose BAF which is easy to use for the Trust Board and the Committees, whilst also demonstrating the

necessary elements to satisfy Internal Audit in their Annual Head of Internal Audit Opinion.

During the Board Development session Board members started to consider how they would demonstrate that the Board had adequately considered its risk appetite. The Good Governance Institute have a framework for this and the aim is that through the year the Board works at incorporating the risk appetite against the elements of the BAF also. It was not planned that this would be achieved until later in the year.

The Annual Plan for 2015/16 set out 7 objectives sitting below the Trust Ambitions. These have been linked to 11 initial risks. Risk scoring is populated in line with the agreed 5x5 risk matrix from the Risk Management Policy.

A process was agreed for how the BAF will draw on and feed in to the Corporate Risk Register. Ensuring that all risks in the BAF feature in the Corporate Risk Register and all risks from the Corporate Risk Register which potentially impact on achievement of the corporate objectives are escalated through the risk validation group to the BAF. The Risk validation group receive the BAF at their meetings.

During 2013 the Board Committee structures were revised to ensure the Assurance Committees provided a comprehensive framework for monitoring the management of risk across the organisation and assurance on delivery of the Trust Objectives. The Board Assurance Committees will continue to review and report on the assurances received on the standardised template to the Trust Board.

The BAF is intended to be a 'live ' document that enables the board to be sighted on its strategic risks.

**Recommendations:**

The Board are asked to consider the 2015/16 BAF and the assurances provided. The Committee is asked to note that all assurance committees have reviewed and amended the relevant elements of the BAF.

**Strategic Risk Register**

**Performance KPIs year to date**

**Resource Implications (eg Financial, HR)** None

**Assurance Implications** The BAF sets out the risks to achievement of strategic objectives and assurances

**Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) Implications** None

**Equality Impact** N/A

**Information exempt from Disclosure** No

**Requirement for further review?**