

Report to:	Trust Board
Title of report:	Audit Committee Report to Trust Board
Date of meeting:	15 March 2016
Status:	For Discussion
Chairperson:	Mr Geoff Hayward, Non Executive Director
Author:	Mrs Jayne Warner, Trust Secretary

Purpose	This report summarises the assurances received, approvals and decisions made by the Audit Committee.
Background	This committee meets at least quarterly and takes scheduled reports from the Trust Internal and External Audit Providers according to an established work programme.
Business undertaken	The Committee received assurance on actions being taken to address audit recommendations on the policies process. The committee agreed this should improve control and allowed for input from assurance committees to the process.
	The Committee noted that there had been no response to date from partner organisations in respect of jointly appointing an Auditor Panel. Further guidance from the DoH was awaited and the matter would be pursued further once this was published.
	The Committee were advised that the Head of Internal Audit Opinion for the Trust for 2015/16 was expected to be a limited assurance. This resulted from the number of limited assurance internal audit reports which had been issued by internal audit.
	The External Audit providers had presented the programme for completion of the audit of the final accounts. The Auditors highlighted the need for the sustainability and transformation plan to support the achievement of a positive VFM assessment in 2016/17.
	The Internal Audit providers presented the draft internal audit plan for 2016/17. This had been considered with executive directors and shared with non executives for comment.
	The Local Counter Fraud Specialist presented a progress report and a number of issues highlighted on fraud cases were referred to the workforce and OD committee for further consideration.
	The Committee agreed a work plan for the Committee for 2016/17.
Risks to refer to risk register	Risk of limited assurance Head of Internal Audit Opinion for 2016/2017

Key decisions taken	<p>Agreement of 2016/17 Internal Audit plan.</p> <p>Partner organisations to be sought in appointment of Audit Panel.</p> <p>Agreement of annual work plan.</p>
Issues to escalate to Board	Trust Internal Auditors alerting to the risk of the Trust receiving limited assurance Head of Internal Audit Opinion for 2015/16.
Challenges and exceptions	None identified
Future exceptional items	None identified

Attendance 15 March 2016

Voting members

Mr Geoff Hayward (Chair)

Mrs Kate Truscott

Mrs Gill Ponder

In attendance

Mr Jason Burn, Interim Director of Finance and Corporate Affairs

Mr Tony Crawley KPMG

Mr Simon Gascoigne, 360 Assurance

Mr Colin Hills, Assistant Director of Finance

Mr Mike Norman, KPMG

Mr Peter Riches, LCFS

Mrs Jayne Warner, Trust Secretary