



BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING - OPEN

14 November 2018

Item 19iii(b)

TITLE OF PAPER	Audit Committee – Summary Report to the Board of Directors in respect of Significant Issues
TO BE PRESENTED BY	Ms. Ann Stanley, Chair – Audit Committee Non-Executive Director
ACTION REQUIRED	For assurance
OUTCOME	To provide assurance to the Board that the Audit Committee has discharged its duties as directed by the agreed Terms of Reference by the timely reporting of items of significance discussed at the meeting held on 16 October 2018
TIMETABLE FOR DECISION	None required.
LINKS TO OTHER KEY REPORTS / DECISIONS	Minutes of the Committee.
LINKS TO OTHER RELEVANT FRAMEWORKS BAF, RISK, OUTCOMES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Trust Board Assurance Framework• NHS Audit Framework
IMPLICATIONS FOR SERVICE DELIVERY AND FINANCIAL IMPACT	Timely reporting to the Board of Directors
CONSIDERATION OF LEGAL ISSUES	None required.

Author of Report	Ann Stanley
Designation	Chair – Audit Committee (Non-Executive Director)
Date of Report	November 2018



SUMMARY REPORT

Report to: Board of Directors

Date: 14 November 2018

Subject: Audit Committee – Summary Report to the Board of Directors in respect of Significant Issues

Author: Ann Stanley, Chair – Audit Committee (Non-Executive Director)

1 Purpose

<i>For Approval</i>	<i>For a collective decision</i>	<i>To report progress</i>	<i>To seek input from</i>	<i>For information</i>	<i>Other (please state below)</i>
		X		X	

To report in a timely manner, items of particular significance discussed at the Audit Committee meeting held on 16 October 2018.

2 Summary

Board members will receive the minutes of the Audit Committee meeting held on 16 October 2018 in due course, however, at the end of the meeting, the Committee agreed by means of this report to notify Board members of the following significant issues:

- Freedom to Speak Up Bi-Annual Report

The Committee received an overview of the Bi-Annual Freedom to Speak Up (FTSU) Guardian Report. The Committee were duly assured regarding the availability and awareness of an independent FTSU process within the Trust.

Members noted next steps, and that efforts are being made to further strengthen the reporting processes, with an emphasis on ensuring that learning from concerns raised is put into practice.

Members were pleased to note that the FTSU role has a high profile within the Trust.

- 360 Assurance Progress Report – Outcome of Recent Audit Reviews

Members noted that three recent audit reports had been issued; Regulatory Framework; Procurement and Business Planning and that all received “limited assurance”. Members were assured that action was being taken to address the issues raised in these reviews.

The Chair requested that future progress reports received from 360 should indicate whether or not the audit reports received were considered ‘core’ or otherwise in order to ascertain the overall robustness of the Trust’s core internal control systems.

Confirmation was also received that at the present time, based on the five follow up reviews completed to date, the rate of implementation for agreed actions so far stands at 75%. Whilst this is an improved rate of implementation at this stage of the year, it was noted that the new Internal Audit tracker system may impact adversely on this implementation rate. As follow up actions remain a key component on the overall Internal Audit opinion, the situation would be closely monitored.

- Risk Management Strategy Refresh

Confirmed that the refresh of the current Risk Management Strategy was currently being undertaken and that the final refresh would be available for receipt at the January 2019 Committee meeting, prior to receipt for approval at February 2019 Board of Directors meeting.

- Review of the BAF & Corporate Risk Register

The current Board Assurance Framework and Corporate Risk Register were reviewed by the Committee.

Confirmation was received that as part of a triangulation process work is currently underway to review the CQC inspection outcomes and determine how they may impact and/or feed into the BAF. The Chair also requested that a thorough review of the level of assurance around some of the Workforce risks be undertaken at the next WOD Committee meeting.

It was agreed that the narrative provided for a number of risks on the Corporate Risk Register needed additional clarity to better understand the risk in question. This was particularly the case with new risk entrant no. 4021. It was requested that this risk be reviewed prior to Board and that EDG should consider whether or not this risk should be included on the BAF.

The Committee acknowledged the work being undertaken to improve the information provided.

3 Next Steps

The above items will be taken forward by the Committee as appropriate and to timescales agreed via the action log.

4 Required Actions

For the Board of Directors to:

- Note the issues raised and receive assurance that the Committee will action the resulting issues as appropriate.

5 Monitoring Arrangements

Through Audit Committee as appropriate.

6 Contact Details

For further information, please contact:

Ann Stanley,
Chair – Audit Committee (Non-Executive Director).