

## **Audit and Risk Assurance Committee**

### **Committee Chair Report for Board Meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

The Audit and Risk Assurance Committee ('the Committee') met on (15<sup>th</sup> May 2025). The following is a summary of the areas considered at the meeting to update the Board. The formal record of the meeting remains the approved minutes.

#### **1. Summary of areas considered**

##### **➤ Risk Management**

- Corporate risk register update provided to Committee. No new risks recorded since last meeting.

##### **➤ Internal Audit Progress Reports (4)**

- Client Monies and Cash Valuables – satisfactory assurance at six facilities, unacceptable assurance at two facilities, management committed to implementing all recommendations
- Management of the Patient Journey – management of outpatients, limited assurance in general surgery several recommendations for improvement
- Safeguarding of Boarded Patients – limited assurance due to incomplete risk assessments – action plans are in place to address this
- Governance & Assurance Function – follow up advisory report noting 79% PY recommendations implemented

##### **➤ BSO Shared Services Summary report**

- Payroll Service Centre – Satisfactory
- Recruitment Shared Service Centre - Satisfactory

##### **➤ Head of Internal Audit Annual Report**

##### **➤ Draft Annual Report and Accounts Y/E 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025**

##### **➤ Consideration of Losses for Write Off**

- **Draft Governance Statement**
- **Draft Annual Report and Charitable Trust Funds Accounts Y/E 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025**
  
- **SHSCT Standing Financial Instructions**
  
- **NIAO Effect Audit and Risk Assurance Committes – Good Practice Guide**
  
- **HSC Finance Circular Log**
  
- **Finance Circulars**
  - Introduction of new Global Internal Audit Standards in the UK Public Sector

## **2. Issues for escalation to Trust Board**

None

## **3. Action(s) requested/required of Trust Board**

- **To Note:** Communication attached to the SHSCT from **Preeta Miller, Director, DoH Sponsorship Branch** in relation to satisfactory assurance provided by Head of Internal Audit
- **To Note:** Previous minutes of meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2025

**Elizabeth Ensor**

**Non-Executive Director - Chair**

**On behalf of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee**

**17<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

## **Sponsorship Director message to SHSCT - removal of internal audit limitation**

*From: DoH HSC Sponsorship <HSCSponsorship@health-ni.gov.uk>*

*Sent: 12 June 2025 16:59*

*To: Teggart, Catherine; Judt, Sandra*

*Subject: Sponsorship Director message to SHSCT - removal of internal audit limitation*

**Dear Catherine and Sandra**

**I would like to recognise the work delivered in your Trust to improve the system of internal control during 2024/25, and to welcome the overall satisfactory assurance provided in the Head of Internal Audit's Annual Report for the year.**

**I want to recognise the effort put in by Trust staff to improve the position from limited assurance at the end of 2023/24, and to thank the Audit Committee for their oversight.**

**Looking ahead, I'd like to emphasise the importance of maintaining or, where needed, putting in place appropriate organisational controls to help prevent high-priority recommendations. Implementing recommendations is also key to ensuring satisfactory assurance. Ultimately, such an approach will support the effective delivery of public services and intended outcomes, and I acknowledge the progress achieved to date.**

**Any decision on changes to our level of attendance at audit committee will be made around the time of your accountability meeting.**

**Kind Regards**

**Preeta Miller  
Director of Trust Sponsorship**