

## **Audit and Risk Assurance Committee**

### **Committee Chair Report for Board Meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

The Audit and Risk Assurance Committee ('the Committee') met on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 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**

- **Internal Audit Progress Report 2025/26**
  - 11% progress completed against 25/26 Audit Plan.
  - Internal Audit General Annual Report for HSC 24/25 summarising key learnings for SHSCT
  - BSO Draft Governance Statement 24/25 – Overall Satisfactory Assurance on the effectiveness of BSOs framework
- **SHSCT Internal Audit Oversight**
  - Lessons learned from prior year, proposed approach and internal targets for 25/26 discussed.
  - Breakdown of outstanding IA recommendations carried forward to 25/26 – 90% compliance achieved in 24/25
- **External Audit 24/25**
  - Letter of understanding previously signed by the Director of Finance has been reissued and signed by the Chief Executive
- **Final Draft Annual Report and Accounts Y/E 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025**
  - Following discussions recommended for approval by the Trust Board on the 26<sup>th</sup> June 2025
- **Final Draft Annual Report and Charitable Trust Funds Accounts Y/E 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025**
  - Following discussion, the annual report and accounts were recommended for approval to Trust Board on the 26<sup>th</sup> June 2025
- **Draft Report To Those Charged with Governance 2024/25**
- **Risk Management**
  - Corporate Risk Register Update provided

- **Annual Report on the Use of Direct Award Contracts for the year ended 2024/25**
- **Summary Report of the Post Project Evaluations completed during 2024/25 on Capital and Revenue Proposals Greater than £300,000**
- **Audit and Risk Assurance Committee Annual Report 2024/25**
- **Log of Finance Circulars**
- **Corporate Governance in central Government Departments Code of Good Practice in NI (2025) Update**

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

- None

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

- **To Note:** Previous minutes of meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2025
- **To Note:** Committee Annual Report 2024/25

*M. E. Ensor.*

**Elizabeth Ensor**

**Non-Executive Director - Chair**

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

**Date: 19<sup>th</sup> September 2025**