





TRUST BOARD / SLT COVER SHEET

	<p>The cover sheet purpose is to provide the Trust Board/Committee with a clear summary of the paper being presented, how it impacts on the people we serve, key matters for attention and the ask of the Trust Board/Committee</p> <p>The Accountable Director must satisfy themselves that the cover sheet is accurate and fully reflects the paper. The expectation is that the Accountable Director has read and agreed the content of both the cover sheet and paper.</p>	
Meeting and Date of meeting	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Trust Board – 29th January 2026</i></p>	
Title of paper	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Board Assurance Framework</i></p>	
Accountable Director	Name	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Dr Stephen Austin</i></p>
	Position	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Medical Director</i></p>
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This paper sits within the Trust Board role of:	<p style="text-align: center;">Accountability</p>	
This paper is presented for:	<p style="text-align: center;">Approval</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>(Notes on completion at end of document)</i></p>	
Links to Trust Strategic Priorities 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Collaborative Working
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Learning Organisation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Safety, Quality & Experience
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Community First
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Whole-Life Approach

1. Reason for Presentation of Paper / Report

The Board Assurance Framework (BAF) has been updated and will be presented to the Trust Board for approval. Its purpose is to provide a structured approach for identifying, assessing, and managing strategic risks that could hinder the achievement of the Trust's Strategic Priorities. The BAF consolidates key risk information, ensuring the Board has sufficient and timely assurance to support effective decision-making and maintain oversight of the Trust's risk management practices.

2. Detailed summary of paper contents:

Following the Board Review Day on 23rd October 2025, at which the Board undertook a risk appetite exercise, the Risk Appetite Statement for the Trust, along with associated tolerance levels, were determined and have been used to inform the updating of the BAF.

Specific areas which have been updated include:

1. **Alignment to Strategic Priorities:** The BAF now aligns the Trust's Strategic Risks directly to the current Strategic Priorities, strengthening the line of sight between risk, strategy and outcome delivery.
2. **Application of Risk Appetite and Tolerance:** The strategic RAG ratings have been revised to reflect the Board's stated risk appetite and tolerance levels, rather than the numerical risk scoring used in the Corporate Risk Register. This brings the BAF into line with HM Treasury guidance (Orange Book).
3. **Updated Strategic Risk Descriptions:** Descriptions for the five Strategic Risks have been updated to reflect current Trust context and external pressures and clarify how each risk affects essential services and statutory obligations.

3. Areas of improvement/achievement:

The Board Assurance Framework (BAF) document has now been updated to ensure that members of Trust Board have a comprehensive overview of any risks which may affect the Trust achieving its strategic objectives.

4. Areas of concern/risk/challenge:

None noted

5. Impact on Statutory Duties: Provide details on the impact of the following and how.	
<i>Financial Impact</i>	<i>Safety and Quality Impact</i>
No, there are no Financial Impacts	No, there are no Quality, Safety or Experience Impacts
6. Risk Assessment (Risk level and state if a risk assessment be completed)	
<i>N/A – The paper does not require a risk assessment.</i>	
7. Other Business Intelligence/data (If appropriate)	
<i>N/A</i>	
8. Impact: Provide details on the impact of the following and how. If this is N/A you should explain why this is an appropriate response.	
Corporate Risk Register	<i>N/A The BAF is a summary of the extreme and high rated risks within the Corporate Risk Register relative to the Board’s stated risk appetite and tolerance levels. – The paper does not require a risk assessment.</i>
Board Assurance Framework	<i>The paper is the new/updated Board Assurance Framework</i>
Equality and Human Rights	<i>There are no Equality or Human Rights impacts.</i>

Trust Board Role Fulfilment

Strategy	<i>Papers in this category should address forward-looking priorities, long-term objectives, or service transformation. These are typically focused on shaping the future of the organisation and will often involve decisions on direction, investment, or innovation.</i>
Culture	<i>These papers aim to influence or reflect the values, behaviours, and staff or patient experiences within HSC. They may relate to leadership development, equality, diversity and inclusion, staff engagement, or initiatives intended to reinforce our organisational ethos.</i>

Accountability	<i>Papers falling into this area relate to governance, assurance, performance monitoring, compliance, and risk. They provide evidence that responsibilities are being fulfilled, standards are being met, and corrective actions are being taken where necessary.</i>

Reasons for Paper Presentation

Approval	<i>Used when an item requires a formal agreement or endorsement by the meeting / committee members. Examples are approving minutes, budgets, proposals or policies.</i>
Assurance	<i>Used when an item can be measured against a certain criteria / standard. Examples are a project is on course with delivery or financial targets are being met.</i>
Information	<i>Used when an item is presented for the purpose of updating or informing the attendees without requiring a decision or action, such as reports, updates, or announcements.</i>
Discussion	<i>Used when an item is listed primarily for open discussion, brainstorming or gathering input from the members without requiring an immediate decision.</i>