

Governance Committee

Committee Chair Report for Board Meeting on 29th January 2026

The Governance Committee ('the Committee') met on 11th December 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

- 1.1 The Committee accepted for assurance the respective Chair's reports from the Safety and Quality Steering Group, the Organisational Governance Steering Group and the Standards, Compliance and Regulation Steering Group.
- 1.2 The Committee noted the Corporate Risk Register and commented on a new risk added to the register regarding patient waiting times for the Trust Dermatology service. The Committee accepted assurance that actions are in place to reduce waiting times, with support from the Department of Health's SPPG for service development.
- 1.2 The Committee accepted for assurance the report on Non-Executive Directors visits to Children's Homes presented by the Director of CYPWS & Executive Director of Social Work.
- 1.3 The Committee agreed amendments to its terms of reference and recommended this to the Board for approval.
- 1.4 The Committee noted for information two "deep dive" reports covering the governance of Clinical Audit and Contract Management. The Committee will further consider these reports (together with three other "deep dive" governance reports covering Fire Services, Laboratory Services and Service User Feedback which it received earlier in 2025) at its meeting in February 2026 and will provide the Board at a future meeting with a stocktake of the

“deep dive” process. Copies of the Clinical Audit and Contract Management reports are attached. The reports provided in-depth background on Areas of Good Practice, Challenging Issues of Concern (including issues that are noted on Risk Registers) and Areas of Achievement/Improvement. The purpose of commissioning these reports is to initiate discussion about developing stabilisation and recovery structures/proposals to address areas of concern.

- 1.6 The Committee noted an updated Raising Concerns (Whistleblowing) report which identified that only one new case, under the formal process, had been notified during the period April to October 2025. This indicates a further reduction in the number of concerns raised by staff, year on year, under the formal process. The Committee has expressed its concern to the Board about the “health” of the process.

2. Issues for escalation to Trust Board

- 2.1 There are no new issues for escalation in this report.

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

- 3.1 To note this report and the minutes from 11th December 2025 Committee meeting.
- 3.2 To consider and if content approve the amendments to the Committee’s terms of reference.

Mr Jackie Johnston
Non-Executive Director - Chair
On behalf of the Governance Committee
8th January 2026