

Board of Directors - Public

SUMMARY REPORT

Meeting Date: 26 July 2023
Agenda Item: 22

Report Title:	Formal Receipt of Auditor Reports for the Year Ending March 2023	
Author(s):	Phillip Easthope, Executive Director of Finance, Digital & Performance Deborah Lawrenson, Director of Corporate Governance	
Accountable Director:	Phillip Easthope, Director of Finance	
Other meetings this paper has been presented to or previously agreed at:	Committee/Tier 2 Group/Tier 3 Group	Audit & Risk Committee Confidential Board of Directors
	Date:	27 June 2023 and 28 June 2023
Key points/recommendations from those meetings	<p>Receipt formally noted as part of the year-end Annual Report & Accounts process.</p> <p>Head of Internal Audit Opinion Statement & Annual Report – Positive assurance provided; the overall opinion has increased from moderate to significant.</p> <p>External Auditors annual report – draft report for Annual Report and Accounts prior to approval at extraordinary Board on 28th June; intend to issue an unqualified opinion on the financial statements and identified no significant weaknesses regarding the Trust value for money arrangements.</p> <p>An unqualified opinion on the Trust's accounts was issued on the 29th June.</p>	

Summary of key points in report

Formal receipt in public of the final Head of Internal Audit Opinion Statement and External Audit Report for the period 2022/2023, as part of the Annual Report & Accounts process.

The Head of Internal Audit Opinion is shown below:

'I am providing an opinion of significant assurance that there is a generally sound framework of governance, risk management and control designed to meet the organisation's objectives, and controls are generally being applied consistently'.

The opinion considered three main areas:

	This year (Last year)
Board Assurance Framework	Significant (moderate)
Individual assignments	Moderate (significant)
Follow up actions	Significant (moderate)

The opinion acknowledged the 2022/23 plan was heavily weighted towards risk-based reviews at the Trust's request to support its improvement journey.

External Auditors annual report key points:

Key findings from the 2022/23 financial statements and value for money audits.

We issued an unqualified opinion on the Trust's accounts on 29 June 2023. This means that we believe the accounts give a true and fair view of the financial performance and position of the Trust.

We did not identify any significant inconsistencies between the content of the annual report and our knowledge of the Trust.

We are required to report if we identify any significant weaknesses in the arrangements the Trust has in place to achieve value for money.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

We did not consider it necessary to issue any other reports in the public interest.

Appendices attached:

Final 360 Assurance Head of Internal Audit Opinion Statement & Annual Report

Final KPMG Auditors Annual Report 2022/23

Recommendation for the Board/Committee to consider:

Consider for Action		Approval		Assurance	X	Information	
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The attached reports were formally received by the Audit & Assurance Committee at the meeting on 27 June 2023 and the Board of Directors at the Confidential Board of Directors meeting held on 28 June 2023 as part of the year-end process for the completion and approval of the 2022/23 Annual Report and Accounts for submission to NHS England.

The purpose of this paper is to formally note the issue and receipt of these reports in a public meeting.

Please identify which strategic priorities will be impacted by this report:

Recover services and improve efficiency	Yes	X	No	
Continuous quality improvement	Yes	X	No	
Transformation – Changing things that will make a difference	Yes	X	No	
Partnerships – working together to make a bigger impact	Yes	X	No	

Is this report relevant to compliance with any key standards ? State specific standard

Care Quality Commission Fundamental Standards	Yes		No	X	<i>As appropriate for example through Internal Audits.</i>
Data Security and Protection Toolkit	Yes		No	X	
Any other specific standard?					

Have these areas been considered ? YES/NO

If Yes, what are the implications or the impact?
If no, please explain why

Service User and Carer Safety, Engagement and Experience	Yes	X	No		<i>All areas are covered through assurance on Annual Report & Accounts arrangements.</i>
Financial (revenue & capital)	Yes	X	No		
Organisational Development /Workforce	Yes	X	No		
Equality, Diversity & Inclusion	Yes	X	No		
Legal	Yes	X	No		
Environmental sustainability	Yes	X	No		