

Board of Directors

SUMMARY REPORT

Meeting Date: 26 January 2024

Agenda Item: 24

Report Title:	Governance Report	
Author(s):	Deborah Lawrenson, Director of Corporate Governance	
Accountable Director:	Deborah Lawrenson, Director of Corporate Governance	
Other Meetings presented to or previously agreed at:	Committee/Group:	Audit and Risk Committee
	Date:	16 January 2024
Key Points recommendations to or previously agreed at:	This report provides key updates on governance matters.	

Summary of key points in report

Annual Report and Accounts 2023/24

An update on progress with delivery of the annual report and accounts was received at the Audit and Risk Committee in January. The first version of the Annual Report has been drafted and will be circulated to Non-Executive directors for any feedback in early February following receipt at Executive Management Team. The second draft is due for completion during March for receipt at EMT in April and the Audit and Risk Committee and Board of Directors in May.

The Value for Money submission has been completed and issued to external audit in line with planned expectations.

Declaration of Interests 2023-2024

An update was received at Audit and Risk Committee on the processes in place for calling in the annual declarations of interests, gifts, hospitality, and sponsorship. The current policy states that declarations are required from:

- Board members
- Governors
- Decision makers or contributors to decisions which involve taxpayers money
- Delegated budget holders
- Those graded at 8c and above or those able to enter into contracts on behalf of the Trust
- Those involved in decision making concerning commissioning of services, purchasing of goods, medicines, medical devices or equipment, prescribing and formulary decisions

All declarations have now been received for the 2022-23 declaration process.

Updated declarations for the current financial year are in the process of being called in for onward reporting through the Audit and Risk Committee in May 2024.

The declaration of interest and Fit and Proper Person's test declarations have been received from the newly appointed Director of Strategy.

Monitoring of operational plans, action plans and Third-Party Assurances Report

Audit and Risk Committee have been provided with an update on processes in place for the monitoring on key operational plans, receipt of action plans and third-party reports – this reflects any external assurances listed in the Board Assurance Framework, and input received to date through the Tier II group reports to the Tier I assurance committees and will continue to be updated to support finalisation of their respective reports to the Audit and Risk Committee and Board of Directors in May 2024.

Well Led

The Board undertook a self-assessment against the previous Well Led domains in 2022-23 and an update on progress was received at the July 2023 meeting.

Since that update the CQC have changed their approach to Well Led with the domains having been replaced by quality statements against evidence categories. An update on the new approach was received by the Board at its strategy session in October and we will be reviewing the new approach and aligning our performance against the statements at a Board Strategy session in April with a view to providing a further update in the governance report in May. We are also exploring commissioning of an externally supported Well Led review, and a review of our trust wide clinical and corporate governance arrangements. This is expected to be delivered in 2024/25.

Recommendation for the Board/Committee to consider:

Consider for Action		Approval		Assurance	X	Information	X
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The Board of Directors is asked to **receive for information and assurance** the updates provided.

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

Effective Use of Resources	Yes	X	No	
Deliver Outstanding Care	Yes	X	No	
Great Place to Work	Yes	X	No	
Ensuring our services are inclusive	Yes	X	No	

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

Care Quality Commission Fundamental Standards	Yes	X	No		WL4: Well-Led Development plan 'The Trust must ensure that effective governance systems are in place to assess, monitor and improve the quality and safety of services'
Data Security and Protection Toolkit	Yes		No	X	
Any other standards	Yes		No	X	

Have these areas been considered ? YES/NO

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

Service User Safety, Engagement and Experience	Yes		No	x	Not directly in relation to this report – specific detail would be covered through the reports referenced
Financial (revenue & capital)	Yes		No	x	
Organisational	Yes		No	x	

Development/Workforce					
Equality, Diversity & Inclusion	<i>Yes</i>		<i>No</i>	x	
Legal	<i>Yes</i>		<i>No</i>	x	
Sustainability			<i>No</i>	x	