

# PAPER

BOD 135/2014

# Report to the Meeting of the

# Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust

# Board of Directors

**24 October 2014**

**Governance Framework – Quality Committee Terms of Reference**

**For: Approval**

**Executive Summary**

In late 2013/14, a review of the Trust’s governance framework, led by Sharon Fennell, Associate Director of Operations, was undertaken the results of which were presented to the Board. The review proposed to retain the following committee’s in their existing form and structure – Finance & Investment Committee, Audit Committee, Charitable Funds Committee (taking account of the separate review for this committee, and Remuneration & Nominations Committee.

The review proposed changes to the Integrated Governance Committee (IGC) and substantial changes to the ‘Quality Improvement Committees (QICs)’ that report in to IGC. The proposal was to re-shape this Committee and its sub-committees to focus on the Care Quality Commission’s five domains of safe, caring, effective, responsive and well-led. The Board discussed the outcomes of the review and the proposed structure in Board seminars in early-mid 2014.

Taking account of the review outcomes, comments from Board members and review of FT’s structures, Terms of Reference for the Quality Committee had been drawn up for Board approval. This Committee will replace the IGC.

The QICs will be abolished and replaced by four ‘Quality Sub-committees’ that focus on the CQC domains. Copies of the draft terms of reference for these committee’s are attached for comment.

The Quality Committee will take responsibility for the two main areas:-

* overseeing the effective development of the Trust’s corporate and clinical governance arrangements; and
* ensuring that there is an objective and systematic approach to the identification and assessment of risk and delivery of the organisation’s priorities in the context of all national standards.

Once the Quality Committee is established it will be asked to review a new document that describes the Board’s corporate governance framework and sets out the terms of reference for each Board committee and sub-committee’s, alongside the terms of reference for the relevant executive committees.

**Recommendation**

The Board is asked to approve the new Quality Committee Terms of Reference and, in so doing, abolish the Integrated Governance Committee.

The Board is asked to comment on the proposed quality sub-committee terms of reference before their presentation to the Quality Committee for final approval.

**Author and Title:**

**Lead Executive Director:**

1. *A risk assessment has been undertaken around the legal issues that this paper presents and there are no issues that need to be referred to the Trust Solicitors.*
2. *This paper (including all appendices) has been assessed against the Freedom of Information Act and the following applies:*
* *THIS PAPER MAY BE PUBLISHED UNDER FOI*