

# Report to the Meeting of the

# Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust

**BOD 18/2023**

(Agenda item: 10)

# Board of Directors

**29 March 2023**

**Report from the Audit Committee on matters to Alert, Assure or Advise**

**For Alert**

* Internal audit review of **Prevention of Future Deaths Notices** – **medium risk** rated.

Findings that policies and procedures do not provide guidance on the development, monitoring and closure of actions set in response to Coroners’ reports with consequences for the quality and timeliness of mitigating actions. Suggested delegation to Quality Committee.

* Internal audit review of **IT Data Centre Controls** – **medium risk** rated.

Findings that further improvements should be made to the resilience of outsourced data centres, the Trust’s oversight and monitoring of them and the level of detail included in disaster recovery plans.

* **PICU lessons learned review** identified that culture, complexity and time pressure were threads which appeared to run through issues. All but one of the recommendations made resulting the PWC review have been actioned, but the opportunity for wider organisational learning have not yet been applied. It is likely that similar issues will be highlighted in the upcoming Service Change and Delivery internal audit review.
* Follow up of actions from past reviews noted that the PLC was still seeing slow progress to improve **mandatory training compliance**.

**For Assurance**

* Deep dives have been performed on several red rated risks, including demand and capacity, unavailability of MH beds, workforce planning and recruitment, resulting in a strengthening of approach to capturing the nature of risk, identifying the root cause and developing preventative and mitigatory controls. This is an ongoing process.
* A benchmarking exercise on a Financial Sustainability self assessment, mandated by NHSE, suggested the Trust scored average/above average for each domain within the benchmark group of PWCs NHS clients. Lower scoring domains were identified for attention.
* The Trust is expected to score a Green rating against the NHS Counter Fraud Authority’s annual assessment, with only one of the twelve standards requiring further assessment to confirm compliance.
* Revised Standing Financial Instructions were reviewed and approved.

**To Advise**

* A Risk Appetite Statement was agreed and will come to Board for approval shortly.
* The scoring of the Business Continuity and Emergency Planning BAF risk scoring was reduced from from 12 to 9, given it’s successful implementation during multiple incidences of both real life and scenario testing incidents.
* The Trust’s new External Auditor, Ernst & Young, has commenced work on the FY23 audit and it’s review of the Trust’s arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources (VfM).
* A procurement process is underway for new Internal Audit and Counter Fraud contracts. Pressures on the Procurement Department have meant a delayed process and there will be a gap between old and new contracts. Teams are working hard to minimise both the length and impact of this gap. The competitive market for such services has also meant that contract costs are likely to rise by around 17%. VFM assessments have been stringently applied to maximise the opportunity extracted from such price increases.

**Recommendation**

The Board is asked to confirm that it is assured with progress and actions taken.

**Lead Non-Executive Directors: Lucy Weston (Audit Committee Chair) and Mohinder Sawhney (acting Audit Committee Chair for the February 2023 meeting)**

1. ***Strategic Objectives/Priorities and strategic Board Assurance Framework (BAF) risk themes*** *– this report relates to or provides assurance and evidence against the following Strategic Objective(s)/Priority(ies) of the Trust*

*1) Quality - Deliver the best possible care and health outcomes*

*Strategic risk themes: triangulating data and learning to drive Quality Improvement; Demand and Capacity (Mental Health inpatient and Learning Disabilities); and Demand and Capacity (Community Oxfordshire).*

*2) People - Be a great place to work*

*Strategic risk themes: Workforce Planning; Recruitment; Succession Planning, Organisational and Leadership Development; Culture; and Retention.*

*3) Sustainability – Make best use of our resources and protect the environment*

*Strategic risk themes: planning and decision-making at System and Place level and collaborative working with Partners; governance of external Partners; Financial Sustainability; Governance and decision-making arrangements; Business Planning; Information Governance & Cyber Security; Single Data Centre; Business Continuity and Emergency Planning; Environmental Impact; and Major Capital Projects.*