

## Audit Committee Report for the Annual Accounts Meeting held on 30 July 2020

### Achievements / Decisions Made / To Note:

**Assurance Framework and Risk Register:** Members were assured that these were regularly reviewed and updated with a quarterly report to this Committee and the assurances in place to effectively mitigate the risks are captured in the framework. This was first on the agenda to ensure Committees are aware of the current risks.

**Internal Audit - Progress Report- Audit Plan:** Members were informed that the majority of staff from the team have been redeployed due to the pandemic, and due to this the Internal Audit team have issued a reduced audit plan. The re-prioritised plan has been to CCG execs, and although limited, it has the main areas covered for assurance. The Committees were Assured.

**Public Sector Internal Audit Standards and COVID 19:** A revised plan was presented and it was confirmed that records are kept for all redeployed staff to be able to check for conflicts of interest when normal roles resume.

**Recommendation Tracking report:** This report confirmed there are 2 (high level) recommendations remaining outstanding for the CCGs, which is reasonable given the circumstances.

**External Audit - Annual Audit Letters:** This was in line with previous approval and brought again to advise of updates and for noting. WNCCG reported a deficit for the end of the year against breakeven position. As a result of this, EY exercised powers and duties as auditors and issued a section 30 referral to the Secretary of State

**Counter Fraud and Local Security Management - Counter Fraud Annual Report:** The committees were assured of the details of this report - including a summary of work completed, together with details of the Counter Fraud Self Review Tool return for 2019/20, recently submitted to the NHS Counter Fraud Authority.

**Counter Fraud Work Plan 2020/21:** This paper set out the proposed counter fraud work plan for 2020/21, together with the related risk assessment. There are no new significant risks, or existing risks that have increased

**Counter Fraud Progress Report:** This paper came to the Committees to advise of the current status in relation to the counter fraud processes. The CCG's are showing just one local case.

**Local Security Management Annual Plan 2020/21:** This report confirmed that there are no new issues.

**Governance - Audited Annual Report and Financial Statements: (including governance statement)** Annual Reports for both CCGs were due on the 25<sup>th</sup> June in line with timelines. Minor amendments completed compared to previous versions. This paper is to confirm this has been submitted.

**Clinical Quality and Governance Committee Report to the Audit Committee:** This paper went to May's Governing Body meeting and confirms the CCG Committee feel they are generally satisfied with the quality of information they receive for meetings.

**Annual Report from the Audit Committee to the Governing Body: (including assessment of work achieved against ToR):** This paper has been brought to the Committees for Assurance and Recommendation to Governing Body. It confirms the Audit Committee are generally satisfied with the quality of information it receives for meetings. The Committees were happy to Recommend to the Governing Body.

**Conflicts of Interest Compliance Assessment Quarter 1:** The assessment is for Quarter one, and based on the Improvement and Assurance Framework (IAF). there are no issues to report.

**Finance - Compliance with Standing Orders and Standing Financial Instructions:** It was confirmed to the Committees that despite the Level Four National Incident the finance teams have worked really hard to stay within the fast paced changing guidance and there were no areas of additional concern to raise.

**Mental Health Investment Standard Review:** The CCG published the review documents on 9th July 2020. This included MHIS Final Audit Opinion (Appendix 1) and Statement of Compliance (Appendix 2). As per previously reported to the Committees both CCG opinions were qualified 'except for'.

**Special Payment & Losses:** There has been no Losses or Special Payments in this period. (April – June 2020).

**SFIs Approved in Principle:** There are no proposed changes for the Scheme of Delegation or the financial limits of the Authorised Signatories at this stage or until the new operating framework and structure of the new single commissioning organisation is concluded. The SFIs were discussed and it was confirmed that upon reading the report there would need to be some minor changes to section 2.5 terminologies only. It was then confirmed that this new information and the terminology updates would be communicated to the Governing Body.

**Any Other Business:** A report was requested to be produced for the next Audit Committees on the video conferencing abilities of the GP surgeries within the CCG locations.

### Key Issues for the Governing Body:

- There were slight changes to the terminology of the SFI's Approved in Principal Report.
- A report was requested to be produced for the next Audit Committees on the video conferencing abilities of the GP surgeries within the CCG locations.

### Matters referred to Governing Body for approval, debate or further consideration:

- Annual Report from the Audit Committee to the Governing Body

### Key Information:

- **Committee Chair:** Chris Stainforth, Lay Member for Audit and Governance
- **CCG Lead:** Kay Speed-Andrews, Acting Deputy Chief Finance Officer
- **Date of Next Meeting:** 29 October 20