

REPORT TO THE TRUST BOARD: PUBLIC
14 November 2018

Title	Audit Committee 24 September 2018 – Chair’s Report
Committee Chair	Paul Hendrick, Committee Chair at meeting on 24 September 2018
Author	Cathy Lilley, Associate Director of Corporate Governance

Purpose of the report

To bring to the Board’s attention key issues and assurances discussed at the Audit Committee meeting held on 24 September 2018.

Issues to be brought to Board’s attention

The following key items and assurances were considered by the Committee at its meeting on 24 September 2018:

- **External Audit:** The Committee noted:
 - The planning for next year’s audit will commence shortly
 - There will be a focus on the production of the Quality Accounts to ensure timely development; this will be taken forward as part of the Trust’s Annual Report and Accounts development plan
 - Formal guidance following the new IFRS (International Financial Reporting Standards) is waited; however, minimal impact is expected on revenue contracts and 2019/20 RE leases
 - The Council of Governors had received the External Auditor’s Reports on ELFT’s Annual Report and Accounts for 2017/18 at its meeting on 20 September 2018.

- **Internal Audit:** The Committee:
 - Noted the progress with the internal audits with three reports having been finalised – Community Health Service Governance, Mental Health Act and Fire Safety. The first has been presented to the Quality Assurance Committee
 - Requested a more detail about and assurance report on the work being taken to address the issues with workforce compliance, specifically appraisal and mandatory training including systems development
 - Discussed the Trust’s approach to fire risk assessments on sites/buildings where the Trust provides services but is not the owner, and noted the actions being taken to improve fire training compliance
 - Noted that following a benchmarking of internal audit findings, the Trust has performed well compared to other Trusts and there were no issues on the level of assurance opinions.

- **Counter Fraud:** The Committee:
 - Reviewed the report, noting the current investigations as well as the work of the team
 - Noted that working whilst sick is still the most prolific fraud and considered ways this might be addressed including working with other Trusts.

- **Board Assurance Framework:** The Committee received a detailed report on the

new framework including the development of the Corporate Risk and the Directorate Risk Registers and was reminded of the development of risk management in the Trust. The Committee noted that the revised Risk Management Framework would be presented at its next meeting in November 2018.

- **Corporate Governance Development Plan:** The Committee noted the development of a Corporate Governance Development Plan which is an overarching plan bringing together the range of actions taking place or identified as being required to support effective governance arrangements in the Trust. The Committee agreed the five governance priorities.
- **Annual Report & Accounts 2018/19 Development:** The Committee supported the framework and timeline proposals for the production of the Trust's Annual Report & Accounts for 2018/19 which would ensure clarity of ownership and appropriate and timely inclusion of review by the Board, its Committees and external audit
- **Quality Assurance Committee Minutes:** The Committee received the approved minutes of the Quality Assurance Committee meeting held on 25 June 2018.