

**KEY ISSUES AND ASSURANCE REPORT**

**Finance Committee**

**November 2018**

The Committee draws the following matters to the Board's attention-

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Committee Update</b>	<b>Assurance received</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
Performance Report	The Committee were updated on the key performance points in the month	There was positive assurance regarding overall performance. The Committee noted areas of challenge, and progress being made on them.	Integrated Performance Report to be considered by the Board	November 2018
Finance Report (M7-October 2018)	The Committee received financial information for the period to the end of October 2018.	Financial performance was broadly on plan, although challenges remain.	Financial report to be considered by the Board	November 2018
	The current internal forecast was that the Trust was £500k behind the Control Total for the year-end, an improvement of £400k since the previous month, and a month on month improvement for the last 3 months. The forecast remained that the Control Total would be achieved.	The month on month movement gave positive assurance that the enhanced governance arrangements are working effectively. Work was continuing to ensure that the gap was closed by the year-end. The Committee also noted the continuing positive impact of agreeing a Control Total.	Positive impact of agreeing the Control Total to be communicated to staff	December 2018
	There was a significant saving on agency spend, both against the 18/19 'cap' and the spend in 17/18.	The performance gave positive assurance that agency use was being successfully limited to only where necessary.	Continued monitoring	December 2018
	Capital spend was forecast to be below the original plan.	The Committee had positive assurance that there were appropriate plans and actions being taken to spend capital in year, with due regard for ensuring that investments were appropriate.	Continued monitoring  Difference between funding for capital investment and revenue position to be communicated to staff.	December 2018  December 2018

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Nursing efficiency schemes- deep dive	The Committee considered a 'deep dive' review of the Nursing efficiency schemes	There was positive assurance that all reasonable steps were being taken to achieve savings, where not affecting the quality of care. The efficiency target was high, and included actions which have taken longer than anticipated but would deliver recurrent savings. While work was ongoing to make further efficiencies, it was unlikely that the Nursing TEP schemes will deliver in full in 18/19. The overall forecast out-turn reflected the expected delivery of these schemes.		
Contract performance	The Committee were updated on the contract performance for the year to date and the forecast outturn; including the impact of the contractual arrangements with the main commissioner, and associates. Activity undertaken in 18/19 will inform future negotiations.	Overall the Trust was over-performing in a number of areas. The Committee received positive assurance that the Trust was capturing and coding activity appropriately; that the contracts were closely monitored; and actions were taken to manage the financial impact. It was positive that there continued to be a strong element of collaboration in the local health economy.	Continued monitoring through the Finance Report.	January 2019
Use of Resources assessment	The Committee were updated on the preparations for the assessment, utilising the Model Hospital and other benchmarking data.	The Committee recognised that the overall financial position meant that the Trust was likely to have a rating of less than 'Good' in the assessment. There was positive assurance that, where the Trust could influence ratings, there was evidence of good practice, and all reasonable steps were being taken.	Board update report (private session)	November 2018

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Post-Project Evaluation- Radiology	The Committee reviewed a post-project evaluation regarding the staffing re-structure in Radiology.	There was some positive assurance available, but also some learning to be taken and embedded for the future. The Committee felt there were some wider questions to consider regarding the overall Business Case process, and Board/ Committee oversight.	Recommendations for improvements to the Business Case process to be presented to the Finance Committee.	By March 2019
Procurement League Table	The Committee considered a paper on the recently-published table, including where the Trust would have been reported if data had been obtained.	There was assurance that systems had been reviewed to ensure that where submissions were expected to be sought, they would be followed up.		
		There was positive assurance that the Trust had a good overall performance.		
Future Operating Model (Procurement)	The Committee considered a paper on the Future Operating Model, and the possible impact on the Trust through 'top-slicing' fees from national tariff.	The Committee had concerns that the proposals placed risk on the Trust in terms of savings anticipated for which analysis was not available.	Analysis behind anticipated savings to be sought from NHS Improvement.	December 2018
Sterilisation Services contract	The Committee considered a proposed contract for these services	The Committee recommended to the Board that the contract be approved.	Board consideration (private session)	November 2018

Assurance gained includes the Committee receiving evidence that:

- i. The extent of the issue has been quantified;
- ii. The impact is included in all internal and external reporting
- iii. There are processes in place to learn from the occurrence, and measures have been put into place to prevent them happening again