



Council of Governors

Wednesday, 8th September 2021

The Work of the Audit and Assurance Committee

Marcia Gallagher, Chair of the
Audit and Assurance Committee



Bit about me...

- Joined 2gether NHS FT in 2016 having retired from the NHS where I was Chair of Audit Committee, Vice Chair of the Delivery Committee and Vice Chair of the Charitable Funds Committee.
- Appointed to the Shadow GHC Board in October 2019. Chair of Audit and Assurance and Vice Chair of the Charitable Funds Committee. I am soon to be a member of the Quality Committee. All NEDs are members of ATOS Committee.
- I am a Qualified Accountant and ex NHS Finance Director but did have a number of senior roles including MD for a PCT.
- I am the Senior Independent Director (SID) and as you know undertake the annual appraisal of the Chair.
- My lead NED Portfolio includes Counter Fraud, Procurement, Security Management and Health and Safety. I am the lead NED for the Forest of Dean.
- I am the Chair of a charity *Crossroads Gloucestershire* that provides Domiciliary Care and Day care activities.

Purpose of the Audit and Assurance Committee

The purpose of the Audit and Assurance Committee is to provide the Board with a means of independent and objective review of financial and corporate governance assurance processes and risk management across the whole of the Trust's activities both generally and in support of the Annual Governance Statement.

Providing onward assurance to the Board on all aspects of the Committee's work. We are a Statutory Committee.

Membership

4 Core Non Executive Members of the Committee

Myself, Maria Bond (Vice Chair currently), Graham Russell and Steve Brittan

Graham provides triangulation between Resources and Maria the Quality Committee. All NEDs can attend the Audit and Assurance Committee. Lead Executive is Lavinia, Head of Corporate Governance and Sandra Betney, Director of Finance in attendance.

Other Executives can be invited to attend eg Medical Director to respond to any relevant audit report.

So what does the Audit Committee Do?

Page 39 of Annual Report outlines more detail

- Approve the Annual Accounts and Annual Report
- Approve any changes in accounting practice
- Approve the Quality Accounts
- Shape and approve Internal and External Audit and Counter Fraud plans
- We review, monitor and follow up on Audit Reports, risks and recommendations
- We meet privately with the Auditors before a meeting
- Refer any concerns to other Committees e.g Heart Failure position in Risk Register to Quality Committee

So what does the Audit Committee Do?

- We triangulate information eg Board Finance Reports to compliance reports
- We approve any changes to Standing Financial Instructions, Orders and scheme of Delegation
- We review the Board Assurance Framework Quarterly. The Board reviews this twice per annum. The BAF supports the CEO to complete the Annual Governance Statement.
- Receive details on Losses and Compensations and Tender Waivers
- Review the Compliance Report - Cash, outstanding Debtors and payment performance of Creditors etc

My role as the Chair of the Audit Committee

In addition to those roles expected of a Committee Chair, my role as Audit Chair also includes:

- Requirement to act as the key contact point for all auditors (internal and external) if they suspect any impropriety
- Authority to approve waivers outside of formal Committee meetings, where required, and providing appropriate challenge to the DoF on these
- Have the ability as a qualified accountant to ask questions and to seek assurance on more technical financial implications/decisions
- Play a lead role in the evaluation of the External Audit performance

How do we support the delivery of the Trusts Strategic Aims

High Quality Care - Risk Register, Board Assurance Framework. Audit Plans eg review of Estates

Great Place to Work – eg Reviewing Recruitment

Better Health - Focussing on ensuring we achieve Best Value in Procurement and best use of resources to support the reduction in Health Inequalities

Sustainability - Estates indicators

A few Challenges ahead...

ICS Governance impact vs Trusts Statutory responsibilities

A financially Challenging future ahead for the NHS!!

Ensuring the Trust has prevention and detection processes re the threat of Cyber Security

Thank you

Questions