

INTEGRATED AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

MEETING HELD ON 10 NOVEMBER 2020

ASSURANCE REPORT

INTRODUCTION

This is the Chair's assurance report to the Clinical Commissioning Group Board following the Integrated Audit and Governance Committee meeting held on 10 November 2020.

AUDIT

EXTERNAL AUDIT

Minute No. 6.1 EXTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT

The Board can be assured that, in terms of the Mental Health Investment Standard, it was understood that there would be a requirement for work on the 2019/20 compliance statement due to be published by 31 March 2021, further guidance was awaited.

A new Code of Audit Practice had come into force on 1 April 2020; however, the detailed statutory Audit Guidance Notes that supported the new Code were still being finalised.

The key changes anticipated for public bodies were:

- More planning and certified self-assessment
- Greater responsibility and accountability of the Audit Committee
- Earlier reporting of the Annual Governance Statement

In the light of any new guidance, the organisation would need to be mindful of the early reporting of the AGS and formal recognition of any additional duties of the Audit Committee which would need to be reflected in the terms of reference.

Minute No. 6.2 AUDIT STRATEGY MEMORANDUM 2020/21

The Board can be assured that Mazars, the external auditors for NHS Hull CCG, had produced an Audit Strategy Memorandum (ASM) which set out their proposed approach in respect of the audit for the year ending 31 March 2021. There had been some delay in progressing the work which was a consequence of the pandemic scenario and timetables slipping elsewhere but assurance was provided that they were able to work effectively in a remote environment to deliver the opinion process.

INTERNAL AUDIT

Minute No. 7.1 INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT

The Board can be assured of the progress made against the Internal Audit plan for 2020/21. The following two final audit reports had been issued since the last IAGC meeting, both of which had been produced by Audit One:

- Primary Care Commissioning – **Full Assurance** (NHSE assurance opinion)
- Financial and Strategic Planning (Part 1) – **Substantial Assurance** (with 1 low level recommendation)

Audit Yorkshire had taken over the contract for Internal Audit Services from 1 October 2020 and a revised plan would need to be considered for 2020/21

Minute No. 7.2 COUNTER FRAUD PROGRESS REPORT

The Board can be assured by the level of counter fraud awareness work that is being undertaken

A draft Counter Fraud Work Plan for NHS Hull CCG for 1 October 2020 – 31 March 2021 had been sent to the Chief Finance Officer for review and this would be circulated to members for approval following the meeting.

FINANCIAL GOVERNANCE

Minute No. 8.1 FINANCIAL REPORT

The Board are advised that, as previously reported, block contract arrangements had been in place for the first half of this financial year.

Guidance on the allocations and contractual arrangements from the 1 of October had now been provided and had a much greater emphasis on system working. It also included an allocation for the cost of COVID related expenditure that local NHS organisations would have to work within, i.e. the CCG will no longer be reimbursed by NHSE/I to ensure a break-even position.

The Chief Finance Officer, Hull CCG, had been given the responsibility of pulling together the Month 7-12 Humber Financial plan submission which had culminated in a forecast being presented to NHSE/I which had confirmed an overall financial gap to envelope of just over £8m. The biggest areas of significant volatility continued to be prescribing, continuing healthcare and out of area mental health expenditure. Official feedback had not yet been received from NHSE/I and further updates would be provided.

GOVERNANCE

Minute No. 9.2 CORPORATE RISK REGISTER

The Board can be assured that systems and processes are in place to identify and manage risks on the Risk Register. The IAGC are kept updated on any movements, provided with the opportunity to review and comment and approve the removal of any risks from the Risk Register.

IAGC Members requested that the following risks be re-visited by the responsible Committees and be brought back to the next IAGC meeting:

- Primary Care Risk 902 to be taken back to the PCCC for further review, and
- Risk 861 which related to Never Events to be taken back to the Q&PC to re-define, with assistance from SLT

Minute No. 9.3 BOARD ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK

The Board can be assured that IAGC members had reviewed and commented on the BAF as appropriate. The document reflected where the organisation was at the current point in time and would continue to develop.

With regard to Risk 4i, which related to the increased risk of poor outcomes as a result of inability to meet constitutional targets, there may be a need to broaden and be more explicit as to the specific risks that were presented at the current time and consider any additional mitigations or controls to be adopted. It was agreed that there needed to be a robust clinical prioritisation and risk assessment process in place so that those in most urgent need were prioritised.

In terms of Health Inequalities and Better Outcomes – this would be referred back to SLT to revisit to provide an adequate reflection of the work that was on-going in this respect.

Minute No. 9.6 CONTINUING HEALTH CARE (NHS-CCG) UPDATE REPORT

The Board can be assured that, in relation to progress made against the required 6 actions, as assessed by Audit One in September 2019: 2 actions were no longer active, 2 actions had been completed in full and a further 2 actions remained outstanding and in progress with revised deadline dates for Q4 of 2021. This was a result of both the impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic and the Adult Social Care internal review.

The IAGC had requested that a further update report be brought back in March 2021.

Minute No. 9.7 EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, RESILIENCE AND RESPONSE (EPRR) 2020/21 SELF-ASSESSMENT AND 2019/20 ANNUAL REPORT

The Board can be assured that the CCG had prepared a response to the Annual Assurance Process and the Incident Response to the COVID 19 Pandemic as defined by NHSE Regional EPRR Team.

The IAGC had approved the Business Continuity / Emergency Preparedness, Response Annual Report 2019/2020.

Minute 9.8 POLICIES

The Board can be assured that the CCG regular reviews it's policies in line with organisational changes and latest guidance.

IAGC members had approved an updated E-mail Policy an updated Conflicts of Interest Policy which would be shared with all staff and published on the CCG website.



Karen Marshall (Chair)
Integrated Audit and Governance Committee
12 January 2021