

ITEM: 11

MEETING: Trust Board 19 September 2007

TITLE: Risk management and Assurance

SUMMARY:

This paper demonstrates that the overall risk management system in place across the Trust continues to be developed to enhance its effectiveness and updates the Board on the Risk Register.

ACTION: for information

REPORT FROM: Margaret Boltwood, Director of Human Resources & Corporate Affairs
Deborah Wheeler, Director of Nursing & Clinical Development

SPONSORED BY:

Financial Validation

Lead: Director of Finance

Compliance with statute, directions, policy, guidance

Lead: All directors

CNST risk management standards

Compliance with Healthcare Commission Core/Developmental Standards

Lead: Director of Nursing & Clinical Development

Reference: C1, D1

Compliance with Auditors' Local Evaluation standards (ALE)

Lead: Director of Finance

Reference:

Compliance with requirements of FT application and monitoring regime

Lead: Director of Strategy & Performance

Reference:

Introduction

The aim of this paper is to demonstrate that the overall risk management system in place across the Trust continues to be developed to enhance its effectiveness. This is a brief interim report, with a full report to the Trust Board in March 2008.

Assurance Framework

The Assurance Committee, as part of its work, has reviewed the Trust's Assurance Framework and brought it up to date to take account of the ever-changing environment within which it operates. The major change has been to taken account of the Trust's preparation to become a foundation trust and the changes that this implies for the governance and operating regime of the hospital. At present these changes have not been identified as the highest risks for the Trust.

Attached as Appendix 1 is an extract of the updated Assurance Framework, showing the highest risks identified as well as the controls and assurances in place. This is to ensure that the full board is aware of these risks and to provide re-assurance that controls are in place. A full up to date Assurance Framework for the Trust will be brought to the Trust Board in March 2008 for ratification.

Risk Register

A full review of the Trust's risk register was undertaken between March and June 2007, following the transfer of responsibility for its maintenance to the Assistant Director of Nursing (Risk Management). The revised register is attached for ratification. (Appendix 2)

The process for adding risks and updating the register has been fully revised and made more robust. In addition to risks identified from departmental risk assessments and from incident reporting forms, other sources are now also routinely reviewed for identification of potential risks. These sources include national confidential inquiries, legislation, such as the Human Tissue Act and the Health Act Hygiene Code, and National Patient Safety Agency reports and alerts.

The executive team will review the register every three months. New risks are added on completion of a risk reporting form, with the agreement of the appropriate director, so that there is a clear audit trail.