

**ITEM: 09/083**  
**Doc: 12**

**Meeting:** Trust Board  
**Date:** 20<sup>th</sup> May 2009

**Title:** Report from the Audit Committee

**Executive Summary:** The Audit Committee met on 7<sup>th</sup> May and was attended by Anna Meyrick (chair), Robert Aitken and Edward Lord. The Committee reviewed the outstanding actions arising from the meetings held in September, November 2008 and January 2009 and the action notes from the meeting in March 2009. The attached paper sets out the outstanding items from the previous meetings and 16 new actions identified at the May 2009 meeting.

The current position is:

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Original actions</u>	<u>o/s at March '09</u>	<u>o/s at May '09</u>
Sept '08	15	2	1
Nov'08	33	2	1
Jan '09	26	11	6
March '09	19	19	3
Total	93	33	11

The Board's attention is drawn to three actions arising from the meeting:

Action 4: Independent audit on health and safety systems

The Audit Committee discussed a paper on the options for the scope of a proposed independent audit to give the committee assurance that the positive H&S inspection two years ago was still valid, as there would not be another inspection for two years. The Director of Facilities was asked to report back on the costs and benefits of an independent audit and the board is asked to give consideration as to whether this audit is required and how the patient safety and health and safety agendas can be brought together.

Action 7: Clinical Litigation – high risk areas

Misdiagnosis in ED was identified as a high risk area. The Audit Committee expressed concerns about the level and timing of consultant cover in ED compared with neighbouring trusts, and the need for paediatric consultant presence.

Action 15: SLA Update

On the recommendation of internal audit, a report on the details of the SLA for 2009-10 was presented to the Audit Committee, who were satisfied that the interests of the trust had been properly addressed in the negotiations.

**Action:** The Board is asked to:

- Note the progress made on actions arising from the work of the Audit Committee;

- Note the Audit Committee's discussion on the need for an independent review of health and safety systems
- Note the Audit Committee's concerns about consultant cover in the Emergency Department

**Report from:** Susan Sorensen  
Corporate Secretary

**Sponsor:** Anna Merrick  
Chairman of the Audit Committee

**Compliance with statute, directions, policy, guidance**

Lead: All directors

**Reference:**

Audit Committee handbook  
NHS compliance regime

**Compliance with Auditors' Local Evaluation standards (ALE)**

Lead: Director of Finance

**Reference:**

Internal control

## The Whittington Hospital NHS Trust Audit Committee

This paper tracks progress on actions from previous meetings of the Audit Committee (AC) and summarises the key decisions and actions arising from the latest meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2009. The minutes of the meeting contain a more comprehensive account of discussion and outcomes.

### Update on outstanding actions from Audit Committee 4<sup>th</sup> September

Action	Progress / Update
The AC requested that consideration is given to how the SUIs are recorded and monitored within the Assurance Framework. Deborah Clatworthy, Fiona Elliott and Susan Sorensen to discuss and report back.	BAF to be overhauled to take account of 2009-10 Annual Plan and corporate objectives. SUIs to be identified under relevant headings. July AC and TB

### Update on outstanding actions from Audit Committee 10<sup>th</sup> November 2008

Action	Progress / Update
Estate revaluation to be undertaken 2 April 2009 agreed by AC	In hand – scheduled for first quarter 2009-10

### Update on outstanding actions from Audit Committee on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2009

Action	Progress / Update
Draw up action plan in response to report of assessor (NHSLA acute risk management standards level 2 assessment)	Deborah Wheeler/Deborah Clatworthy to report back to May AC. Rescheduled for May CGC and July AC
Seek approval from Trust Board for Audit Committee to include the wider management of charitable funds within its remit in addition to consideration of the investment strategy	Trust Board approval obtained at Feb trust board but superseded by proposal for a Charitable Funds Committee. RM to raise with DS. DS to talk to JL. Meanwhile RM to put forward proposals for investment of funds.
Take a view before next AC on whether DIPC should attend AC to discuss how the committee can support her	Wait for MRSA action plan for 2009-10

### Update on outstanding actions from Audit Committee on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2009

Action	Progress / Update
Crime Investigation Policy to be drafted for May AC. <b>Steve Primrose/Philip Ient</b>	Delayed due to sickness absence of SP. For July AC via Security and Personal Safety Committee
Quarterly report on Clinical litigation. Next report to provide more information on claims history and premiums <b>Deborah Wheeler/Angela Kennedy</b>	In hand. Next report to July AC.
Assess reputational risk arising from claims and include on risk register <b>Deborah Wheeler</b>	Next iteration of the risk register, to July AC and TB

### Actions arising from Audit Committee on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2009

	Decision/Action	Timescale	Lead and support
	<b>Report from the Health &amp; Safety Committee (Doc 3)</b>		
1.	Add Medical Exposure to Radiation Safety Committee (MERSC) to committee structure chart	Immediate	Susan Sorensen
	<b>OLM training database development report (Doc 5)</b>		
2.	Update progress on implementing new OLR reporting system	July AC	Philip Ient Lisa Smith
	<b>Health and safety systems – independent audit (Doc 7)</b>		
3.	Benchmark achievement of British Safety Council 5-star rating amongst acute trusts and assess cost of review	July AC	Philip Ient
4.	Report to Trust Board on AC discussion including consideration of integrating patient safety and H&S agendas	May TB	Susan Sorensen
	<b>Clinical Governance Report (Doc 8)</b>		
5.	Update on Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards to be brought to future meeting of AC	July AC	Deborah Wheeler
6.	Update on action in response to the falls RCA to be reported in next CGC report	July AC	Deborah Wheeler

	Decision/Action	Timescale	Lead and support
	Update from Clinical Litigation Annual Report 2008		
7.	AC to report to TB on concerns about hours of consultant cover in ED and number of paediatric consultant sessions in ED	May TB	Susan Sorensen
	Care Quality Commission core standards declaration (Doc 13)		
8.	AM to discuss with CIC whether clinical directors should attend board meetings as is the case at UCLH	Next meeting	Celia Ingham Clark
	Maternity Services improvement action plan (Doc 14)		
9.	Further update on the maternity services improvement plan to come back to the AC in six months	November AC	Kate Slemeck Linda McGurrin
	Draft management letter Board Assurance Framework (Doc 15)		
10.	Map BAF risks into Risk Register when Datix database has been implemented	July AC and TB	Susan Sorensen Deborah Wheeler
	External Audit progress report (Doc 18)		
11.	Follow up on payroll weaknesses after further substantive testing in the final accounts audit	June AC	External audit
	Counter fraud service annual report (Doc 20)		
12.	LCFS needs to report overall message as executive summary of report	July AC	Nigel Sedgwick
13.	Need to increase coverage of fraud awareness training – to be taken up with Lisa Smith	asap	Nigel Sedgwick Lisa Smith
	Counter fraud work plan (Doc 22)		
14.	Counter fraud to risk asses elements of work plan and make recommendations of level of audit days required.	July AC	Nigel Sedgwick
	SLA update (Doc 25)		
15.	Report to TB that SLA position has been scrutinised	May TB	Susan Sorensen
	Statement of Internal Control (Doc 28)		
16.	To be adjusted to comply with audit comment and recommended to the TB	June TB	Susan Sorensen