

Item: 09/151
Doc: 14

Meeting: Trust Board
Date: 18th November 2009

Title: Report from the Audit Committee

Executive Summary: The Audit Committee met on 5th November 2009 and was attended by Anna Merrick (chair), Edward Lord, Robert Aitken and Marisha Ray (who was welcomed to her first meeting).

A detailed review of the action notes from meetings since January 2009 was carried out. It was noted that almost all actions had been implemented with the exception of two that had been delayed by pressures of pandemic flu planning and two which had forward completion dates. These are shown on the attached report along with 17 new actions arising from the meeting on 5th November. An additional four actions relating to items on the Part 2 agenda are attached to the Part 2 minutes.

The Board's attention is drawn to the following matters referred to in the action notes:

Report from the Clinical Governance Committee (ref. note 911.4)

The Committee was concerned about the outcome of the recent trust-wide review by the new lead resuscitation officer of current systems and processes. In particular, assurance was sought on the timing of the planned equipment replacement programme.

CQC: assessment of core standards for 2009-10 (ref. note 911.10)

The Committee reviewed the proposed draft declaration and recommended its adoption by the Board subject to some amendments to the draft supporting evidence document.

MHRA Good Clinical Practice inspection of Research and Development November 2009 (ref. note 911.12)

The Committee noted that this impending visit had been recorded on the risk register because of the need to establish that the trust is meeting all legal requirements relating to clinical trials both as a host and as a sponsor. A verbal update will be given at the meeting.

Audit Commission Report "Taking it on Trust": checklist for boards (ref. note 911.16)

This review, published in April 2009, reports on how boards of NHS trusts and foundation trusts get their assurance. It includes in the summary a checklist of 69 questions which boards should ask themselves. The Audit Commission has proposed that this checklist should be used to assess boards' performance in ensuring a more robust assurance framework and statement on internal control. It is proposed therefore that the Audit Committee should review this at its January meeting and report to the Board. The BAF is also due to come back to the Board in January, following further review by the Audit Committee.

Action:	To note the actions arising from the November meeting of the Audit Committee and the particular matters highlighted for the board's attention.
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From:	Susan Sorensen Corporate Secretary
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Sponsor:	Anna Merrick Chairman of the Audit Committee
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Compliance with statute, directions, policy, guidance Lead: All directors	Reference: NHS Audit Committee handbook NHS compliance regime
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Compliance with Auditors' Local Evaluation standards (ALE) Lead: Director of Finance	Reference: Internal control domain Financial reporting domain
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