

Cover Sheet

Trust Board Meeting in Public: Wednesday 15 January 2025

TB2025.15

Title: Integrated Assurance Committee Report

Status: For Information
History: Regular Reporting

Board Lead: Committee Chair
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Confidential: No
Key Purpose: Assurance

Integrated Assurance Committee Report

1. Purpose

- 1.1. As a Committee of the Trust Board, the Integrated Assurance Committee provides a regular report to the Board on the main issues raised and discussed at its meetings.
- 1.2. Since the last report to the Board held in public, the Integrated Assurance Committee had met on 11 December 2024.
- 1.3. Under its terms of reference, the Integrated Assurance Committee is responsible for reporting to the Board items discussed, actions agreed and issues to be referred to the Board, indicating the extent to which the Committee was able to take assurance from the evidence provided and where additional information was required.
- 1.4. Following joint discussion between the Trust Board and Council of Governors, three members of the Council of Governors attended the meeting as observers

2. Key Areas of Discussion

Corporate Risk Register (CRR)

- 2.1. A review of the Corporate Risk Register takes place at the start of each meeting. This allows members to seek assurance on specific risks and to provide a baseline for Committee discussion.
- 2.2. Assurance was provided on the resilience of and improvements to the Trust's high voltage power supply. Members were briefed on a timetable for the reopening of the West Wing stairwell.
- 2.3. Following the move of PICU to Oxford Critical Care (OCC), members were updated on mitigations in place to ensure nursing care and patient safety across OCC. The role of the Critical Care Safety Group was noted.

Patient Care

- 2.4. As part of its consideration of the regular Clinical Governance Committee report, the Trust's figures for medicines reconciliation and hospital-acquired pressure ulcers were scrutinised.
- 2.5. Following consideration of the Winter Plan at its previous meeting, the Committee received an update on Urgent and Emergency Care across the system.
- 2.6. A Deep Dive session on the growth of genomic testing and its benefits for patients followed the meeting.

Maternity

- 2.7. The Committee received an update on progress against the ten improvement actions identified following the thematic review of the Keep the Horton General dossier.
- 2.8. The experience of maternity service users had been identified as a Quality Priority for 2025/26; evidence of progress on this action plan and on other action plans within the service would underpin delivery of this.
- 2.9. It was noted that October had seen an increase in both births and bookings compared to the previous month.
- 2.10. Members sought assurance that the service had an evidence-based approach to reducing the number of non-white women experiencing third-degree tears, as these women were overrepresented in the figures.

Workforce

- 2.11. The Committee reviewed an initial analysis of workforce growth for the period 2019-2024. A detailed analysis at directorate level would be presented to a future meeting.
- 2.12. To provide context and assurance, it was requested that available data from other Shelford Group trusts and across the NHS as a whole could be analysed.
- 2.13. Members reviewed a gap analysis of the Trust's Sexual Safety policy and activities against the NHS England Sexual Safety Charter Assurance Framework and noted future activities in place to close identified gaps.

Finance

- 2.14. An update on Elective Recovery Funding was provided, with the focus on improving productivity and controlling temporary staffing.
- 2.15. The Committee was updated on two areas of work: the first, to support divisions to close income variances and the second to provide a detailed analysis of non-pay costs.
- 2.16. The Trust's short- and medium-term cash modelling had improved and additional governance arrangements for modelling the cash position would be transitioned into regular reporting to the Committee.

Integrated Performance Report

- 2.17. The Committee received this regular report on performance across operational, quality, workforce, digital and financial metrics. Discussion focused on Emergency Department performance and the Trust's position in relation to patients waiting over 65 weeks and its plans to clear the backlog.

Other Reporting

2.18. The following reports were received by the Committee:

- Maternity Performance Dashboard;
- Regular 6-monthly report from the Clinical Governance Committee;
- Oxford Cell and Tissue Biobank Corrective and Preventative Action Plan Update;
- Summary of the October and November 2024 meetings of the Trust's Delivery Committee;
- Patient Safety Incident Response Framework report for the period September – October 2024; and
- Report on infection prevention and control matters.

3. Recommendations

3.1. The Trust Board is asked to **note** the Integrated Assurance Committee's report to the Board from its meeting held on 11 December 2024.