



Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust

Board Committee Chair's Report

Meeting:	AUDIT & RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Chair:	Andrew Argyle
Date:	26 th June 2023
Present:	<p><u>Members:</u></p> <p>Mr A Argyle, Non-Executive Director & Chair Mrs R Hardy, Non-Executive Director Mrs L Writtle, Non-Executive Director Mr M Laverty, Non-Executive Director Prof L Harper, Non-Executive Director Mrs V Taylor, Assoc Non-Executive Director Mr J Sharma, Assoc Non-Executive Director</p> <p><u>In attendance:</u></p> <p>Miss K Dhami, Chief Governance Officer Ms D McLannahan, Chief Finance Officer Mr D Baker, Chief Strategy Officer</p>

* See below for assurance classification

	<p>Mr M Stocks, Grant Thornton</p> <p>Mr Z Francis, Grant Thornton</p> <p>Mr M Gennard, RSM</p> <p>Mr A Hussain, RSM</p> <p>Mr B Vaughan, RSM</p> <p>Mr D Conway, Assoc Director of Corporate Governance</p> <p>Ms S Coster, RSM</p>
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Key points of discussion

1.	Annual Report including the 2022/23 Financial Statements and Annual Governance Statement	
	<p>Chair’s opinion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The final draft Annual Report and Governance Statement were discussed following the presentation by Grant Thornton of the key accounting and presentation issues to be aware of. It was agreed to amend the income statement to separately disclose the impairment movement and to update the format of the patient quality graphs within the body of the Annual Report. Recommendation to Board – subject to the above amendments, the Committee approved the Annual Report and Governance Statement for signing by the Trust Chief Executive 	Substantial Assurance
2.	Audit Findings Report: Grant Thornton	
	<p>Chair’s opinion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The positive working relationship between the auditors and Trust finance team was noted. The draft Annual Report and Accounts were prepared to a good standard by the Trust ahead of audit with fewer disclosure amendments required compared to prior year. Audit differences were below materiality therefore, no further adjustments required by the auditors. Key control items to note to Board: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further work required on fixed asset verification and ‘tidy up’ of fixed asset register ahead of move to new hospital, particularly IT equipment Audit recommendation to tighten IT access controls within Oracle system 	Substantial Assurance

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Value for Money work is ongoing and needs to be completed by end September 2023. Recommendation to Board – ensure Grant Thornton receive the outstanding information they need to complete this work as soon as possible. The financial sustainability element of their work is a key focus, and their conclusions should help with the wider work ongoing around managing the deficit. 	
3.	<p>Internal Audit: Annual Report and Head of Internal Audit Opinion</p> <p><u>Chair’s opinion:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Received and noted. The RSM Head of Internal Audit noted that SWB are in the middle range of performance when compared to their portfolio of clients. 	Substantial Assurance
4.	<p>DSPT Audit Report and submission</p> <p><u>Chair’s opinion:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data Security and Protection Toolkit (DSPT) internal audit report received and noted. Note to Board – overall conclusion Moderate risk due to several medium level risk findings. Important to monitor completion of improvement actions and follow up on them by internal auditors. 	Reasonable Assurance
Positive highlights of note		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Timely completion of Annual Report. Improved working relationship with external auditors. 		
Matters of concern or key risks to escalate to the Board		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support required to Grant Thornton re value for money work 		
Matters presented for information or noting:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 		
Decisions made:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved the draft Annual Report and related governance statements for signing subject to minor amendments as noted above 		
Actions agreed:		