

Risk Appetite Statement 2018/19

Financial

The Trust has a flexible view of financial risk when making medium to long-term business decisions with transformative potential and is prepared to make bold, but not reckless, decisions, minimising the potential for financial loss by managing risks to a tolerable level. For other financial decisions, the Trust takes a cautious position, with VFM as the primary concern. However, the Trust is willing to consider other benefits or constraints and will consider value and benefits, not just the cheapest price. Resources are allocated in order to capitalise on opportunities.

Compliance/Regulatory

The Board has a minimal to cautious risk appetite when it comes to compliance and regulatory issues. Where the laws, regulations and standards are about the delivery of safe, high quality care, or the health and safety of the staff and public, it will make every effort to meet regulator expectations and comply with them and will only challenge them if there is strong evidence or argument to do so and the gain will outweigh the adverse consequences.

Innovation

The Board has a flexible view of innovation that supports quality, patient safety and operational effectiveness. Its strategic objective to embrace new ideas to deliver new, technology enabled, financial viable ways of working leads it to pursue innovation and challenge current working practices. It is willing to devolve responsibility for non-critical decisions on the basis of earned autonomy.

Quality

The Board has a cautious view of risk when it comes to patient safety, patient experience or clinical outcomes and places the principle of “no harm” at the heart of every decision it takes. It is prepared to accept some risk if, on balance, the benefits are justifiable and the potential for mitigation is strong. When taking decisions involving choices between a wide range of outcomes, it will prioritise the option resulting in the greatest benefit for the most patients.

Infrastructure

The board will take a measured approach when investing in building and equipment maintenance and replacement, based on informed analysis and assessment of risk but may take informed risks if there are identifiable mitigations that can provide reasonable alternative protection.

Workforce

The board is prepared to take decisions that would have an effect on staff morale if there are compelling arguments supporting change, including some decisions with a high inherent risk if there is a potential higher reward.

Reputation

The Board’s view over the management of the Trust’s reputation is that it is willing to take high to significant risks and is willing to take decisions that are likely to bring scrutiny to the organisation where the potential benefits outweigh the risks and sees new ideas as potentially enhancing the reputation of the organisation.

Commercial

The Board has a flexible view of commercial risk. It is willing to pursue business opportunities with the potential for high returns alongside commercial activities of a more established nature, taking a balanced view of risk and reward and on the basis of earned autonomy.

Key Elements	None	Low	Moderate	High	Significant
Financial/VFM					
Compliance/regulatory					
Innovation					
Quality					
Infrastructure					
Workforce					
Reputation					
Commercial					