

COMMITTEE KEY ISSUES

ISSUES FOR REFERRING / ESCALATING TO BOARD / COMMITTEE / TASK & FINISH GROUP

ORIGINATING BOARD / COMMITTEE / TASK & FINISH GROUP:	Performance Assurance Committee, 26 April 2023
CHAIR:	Eddie Bloomfield, Non-Executive Director
LEAD EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:	Neill Moloney, Managing Director and Deputy Chief Executive

Agenda Item	Details of Issue	Approval Escalation Alert Assurance Information
Operational Performance Report (Acute)	 Following disappointing March performance, April was seeing improvement in ambulance handovers, and in Emergency Department (ED) performance in Colchester. The new ED for Colchester Hospital was now fully open. The Committee noted changes to leadership for Ipswich Hospital operations, including the Urgent and Emergency Medicine Directorate. These were now developing plans to focus on key areas for improvement. The Committee queried the increase in 12-hour waits, and was advised that the main driver was capacity at both hospitals. There was also work being undertaken, particularly at Ipswich Hospital, around long waits that were below 12 hours but still adversely impacted on the patient. There were some challenges with 62-day and 28-day cancer pathways, with work being undertaken to set improvement trajectories. However, all except three site-specific pathways were on track. The Committee noted the very positive progress since the 2019 baseline but awaited outcomes for assurance given the recent history of this service. The considerable progress in reducing patients waiting 78 weeks or longer was noted but the number at the end of the year was disappointing. The Committee noted the range of factors that had led to the outcome and the work being commissioned from the Internal Audit service to review waiting list management processes: this would be reported to the Audit and Risk Committee in the usual way. The Trust was a top performer nationally on the 6-week diagnostic waiting metric; and out of 120 Trusts sits at 57th for the number of patients waiting 52 weeks or longer. The aim for 2023/24 is to reduce 62-week waits to zero. This is required by March 2024, however, plans are in place for delivery by December 2023. 	Assurance
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Operational Performance Report Integrated Pathways (IES) and North East Essex Community Services (NEECS)	 There were no areas of concern drawn to the attention of the Committee from the IES report. Useful examples of the work of the Cardiac Rehabilitation Team were included. NEECS was undertaking work to review their activities in the community, identifying the extra value that they added to supporting positive impacts on the wider determinants of health; this included support of and liaison with acute services and social services. NEECS had particularly focused on workforce this month, with a key area being retention; particularly of colleagues from an overseas background. Community Hub arrangements were being launched across the Suffolk and North-East Essex area, led by community services. The Committee noted that the effects on data reporting would need to be accounted for. The Committee noted that internal discussions on the distribution of Elective Recovery Funds (ERF) funds was continuing, with the likelihood of amounts over any fixed allocation to services being fully on a performance-related basis, and therefore variable. 	Assurance
Performance and Workforce Report	 The Committee welcomed positive progress on key workforce metrics. It noted the recent feedback from the Care Quality Commission regarding the requirement to ensure that all staff undertook mandatory training, as required under the Regulations. The positive progress in filling vacant consultant-level posts was particularly welcomed. The increase in bank spend was noted and the Committee discussed the factors that had impacted this including industrial action and increased leave. The Committee asked that the People and Organisational Development Committee look into this in more detail. The Committee noted the information on workforce relations and asked that themes were identified from the various cases to see if there are any specific areas that might require more focus. 	Assurance Alert Alert
Performance and Quality Report	 Attention was drawn to the Mental Health summit to be held in September/October 2023, which would bring together all system partners to address the current challenges with patients requiring mental health support remaining in unsuitable acute settings for extended periods. The Committee looked forward to the outcomes of the summit, which it would consider when available. The Committee requested the People and Organisational Development Committee to review workforce transformation to support patient flow, and in particular to seek assurance that all professional groups have appropriate opportunities to become Advanced Practitioners. 	Information Alert
Finance Report Month 12 2022/23	The year-end finance report was noted and the Committee welcomed the excellent performance of break-even in the challenging financial climate for the year.	Assurance

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Business Plan 2023/24 update	 The 2023-2024 budgets had been finalised and were now being used to hold directorates to account for performance. The Suffolk and North-East Essex Integrated Care Board (ICB) had submitted a break-even plan to NHS England. It was noted that this included significant support for West Suffolk FT from the ICB. The ICB Finance Committee was now establishing itself, with the Director of Finance representing the Trust, and Mr Millar attending to represent the Non-Executive Directors of provider Trusts in the system. The business planning process was substantially completed with some minor areas to finalise. It was expected to come to the Board at the start of May 2023. This fully aligned workforce and financial plans, to ensure that divisions had clarity on their recruitment targets and options. The break-even plan for the Trust, and for the system, meant a focus on delivery rather than waiting for final plans into 2023/24; this was an advantage over most other systems. The Committee noted that, in respect of cost improvement plans that were not fully met in 2022/23, divisions would be required to make up the shortfall in 2023/24; together with the 1% requirement for this year. 	Assurance
Board Assurance Framework (BAF)	 The Committee reviewed the five BAF risks delegated to its oversight, prior to review by the Board The Committee agreed the change in the risk descriptor for BAF Risk 7 on Estates, for approval by the Board as part of the BAF review paper. 	Alert
Committee effectiveness and work programme	 The Committee received and discussed the outcomes of the effectiveness survey, and the Chair undertook to reflect on the results in consultation with colleagues. The Committee noted that there was a wider concern, across Committees regarding the visibility of the work of the ICB and Alliances where it affected the Trust; and this might be something for the Board to consider in the round. The Committee noted the six-monthly update of the work programme and made some suggestions for changes to ensure all relevant items were considered appropriately. 	Assurance Escalation
Accountability Framework Report	 The Committee was concerned regarding the performance of the surgical division and this was discussed. Assurance was sought that divisions would not be led to feel that a lack of performance would be 'bailed out'; it was noted that there were a range of reasons for the current situation and these were being worked through with divisional leadership. The clear message was that plans and budgets were required to be delivered. 	Alert