

Board Assurance Framework

Summary:

The Board Assurance Framework provides the Trust Board with oversight of how the main risks to achieving their objectives are being both managed (through controls) and progressed (via positive and negative assurances). The current risk rating to the objective takes into account the controls and assurances and places a risk score based on consequence to the organisation and the services it provides and the likelihood of the objective not being achieved.

The Trust Board has approved a new template for its Board Assurance Framework and this is being received at this public meeting for the first time. The new template introduces a requirement for the Trust Board to agree its target risk score for each of the Trust objectives. This exercise needs to be undertaken by the whole Board and will be reported publicly at the next meeting in March 2012.

Demand for Trust services remains higher than current capacity. The controls the organisation can put in place are limited as the Trust is reliant in partnership with other organisations at both admission and discharge from the inpatient facilities. The mismatch between capacity and demand continues to impact on the Board's ability to achieve its objectives. The Trust has an extensive programme of actions to address the capacity issues including a 14 million pound redevelopment that includes increasing inpatient capacity in two new wards. The new facilities will be accepting patients from 20th February 2012 and this is expected to impact positively on the achievement of objectives.

It should be noted by the Trust Board that slippage on agreed actions for managing risks against the objectives are recorded against each objective. At the time the Board Assurance Framework was prepared the recruitment of nursing staff for the new wards had experienced a hiatus due to the inability of some candidates to provide the required evidence of competence against all criteria set by the Trust. This has been mitigated and a further recruitment exercise conducted and the position is improved. A verbal update on the latest position will be provided at the Trust Board to ensure the most up to date information is received.

The Trust Board is required to note the positive inter-relationship between the underlying issues about liquidity and the Trust demonstrating its timeline to achieving FT status. This limits the ability of the Trust Board to achieve its objective in this regard until this is agreed. The controls are in place to ensure cash is managed tightly and accessed as required. All actions to mitigate the risk are being delivered to time.

Action:

The Board is asked to: accept, discuss and provide direction on the management of the risks to the strategic objectives

The Board is requested to agree the proposal that the target risk scores exercise are undertaken during February.

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| Presented by: Alan McCarthy, Chairman |
| Author: Jo Thomas, Chief Nurse |

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| Reviewed & Approved by Management Board | Date: N/A |
| Reviewed & Approved by the relevant Board Committee | Date: Audit and Assurance Committee |

Notes:

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| | Please list number and statement this paper relates to. |
| Trust objective: | All objectives |

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| | What are the legal considerations and implications linked to this item? Please name relevant act |
| Legal: | All Legislative requirements placed on the Trust as a provider of NHS funded healthcare. |

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| | What aspect of regulation applies and what are the outcome implications? This applies to <u>any</u> regulatory body – key regulators include: Care Quality Commission, MHRA, NPSA & Audit Commission |
| Regulation: | All relevant external organisations. |