

NHS 24 BOARD MEETING		25 FEBRUARY 2021 ITEM NO 12.3 FOR ASSURANCE	
KEY POINTS OF THE AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE HELD ON 16 FEBRUARY 2021			
Executive Sponsor:	Mr Albert Tait		
Lead Officer/Author:	Executive Assistant		
Action Required	The Board is asked to note the key points for assurance from the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 16 February 2021.		

1. Purpose of the report

This report provides the NHS 24 Board with an update on key issues arising from the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 16 February 2021.

2. Recommendation

The NHS 24 Board is asked to receive and note the key points outlined.

2.1 Internal Audit

The Committee are assured that all actions on the Follow Up report are either complete or are being implemented. This report will be reviewed in more detail at the August 2021 meeting. The Committee noted and agreed, that the focus of Audits in Quarter 1 will be Property Transaction Monitoring and Digital audits. The remaining plan for Quarter 2 – Quarter 4 will be considered at the June meeting, although the Committee supported the early thinking from management as to what should be included.

The Committee noted the Communications Audit that has been completed with reasonable assurance and the Committee are content with the proposed recommendations which will be shared with the Staff Governance Committee.

2.2 External audit

The Committee reviewed and agreed the External Audit Plan for the 2020/21 accounts which included a planned June completion date for the audit.

2.3 Corporate Risk Register

The Committee noted there are two risks that are in the almost certain to happen category which, if they did would have a major impact and four risks that are classified as likely to happen, and if so, would also have a major impact. In noting the actions that management has already put in place and continued to pursue, the committee took assurance from this.

The Committee are aware and discussed the issue of four of the risks relating to absence are similar and it was requested these were consolidated. The rationale for these risks was accepted by the Committee and understand that work is ongoing. It was suggested this is discussed in detail at a future Workshop.

The Committee noted a concern raised at the Planning and Performance Committee about the service delivery risks and inefficiencies relating to employing staff on temporary contracts. To date, there has been no confirmation of recurring funding for Mental Health Hub or Redesign Urgent Care (RUC). A further meeting with Scottish Government will be held to confirm allocations.

2.4 Strategic Risk Register

The Committee noted that further work will be undertaken to review the strategic risks in line with the Remobilisation Plan and strategy refresh work. A Board development session in May 2021 will allow Board members to contribute to the strategic risks.

2.5 Connect Update

The Committee is recommending to the Board to approve the Full Business Case (FBC). Since the Outline Business Case was approved detailed discussions have continued with suppliers on the Phase 1c delivery proposals to ensure due diligence. Throughout this process, the requirements to meet the needs of the organisation have been reviewed to ensure this is achievable in the timeframe within the Business Case.