

Subject:	Audit Committee – Trust Board Update
Prepared by: Sponsored & Presented by:	Lee Williams, Head of Financial Accounting Steve Erskine, Non-Executive Director and Chair of the Audit Committee
Purpose of paper	For information and awareness of items raised at the Audit Committee on 19 th November.
Key points for Trust Board members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Committee received an update on the Reference Costs strategy produced following the Capita CHKS review on the Payment and Tariff Assurance Framework. - The Committee received and approved the Internal Audit Plan for the year following the appointment of TIAA as the Internal Auditors in August. The Committee also noted the client 'portal' that TIAA will use to monitor progress against outstanding recommendations and that this will give the Trust more visibility of live information on progress. - TIAA provided a summary of the findings of the audit on software licensing arrangements in the Trust, which is issued at draft stage. The report includes three 'Urgent' recommendations and five 'Important' recommendations. - External Audit and Counter Fraud each informed the Committee of a change in personnel in the senior teams that support the Trust. - The Committee noted that fraud awareness was significantly lower than comparable trusts in the area and that the lack of face to face fraud awareness training was a significant contributory factor to this. - The Head of Financial Accounting provided an update on preparatory work on the Annual Report production. The Committee re-iterated the need for early Executive input and review of the report. - From 2017/18 the Trust will be responsible for the appointment of its External Auditors and the Trust will need to set up an auditor panel for this purpose. The Committee proposed that the panel consists of the Non-Executive Directors that are members of the Audit Committee and the Director of Finance. - External Audit informed the Committee of a change to approach in reaching the Value for Money Conclusion. The criteria for the basis of the conclusion will be Informed Decision Making, Sustainable Resource Deployment and Working With Partners and other Third Parties. - The Committee received an update on debt write off and noted a significant drop in the value of invoices written off compared to the previous year. - The Committee reviewed and approved the Annual Report on the work of the Audit Committee (as attached).
Options and decisions required	N/A
Next steps / future actions:	N/A
Consideration of legal issues	N/A
Consideration of Public and Patient Involvement	N/A

Links to Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust Board Strategic Aims, Assurance Framework/Corporate Risk Register	
Strategic Aim	N/A
BAF/Corporate Risk Register Reference (if applicable)	N/A
Risk Description	N/A
CQC Reference	N/A
Committees/Meetings at which paper has been approved: Audit Committee	November 2015