

Finance Assurance Committee, Key Issues Report		
<b>Report Date:</b> 26 November 2024		<b>Report of:</b> Finance Assurance Committee
<b>Date of meeting:</b> 26 November 2024		<b>Members:</b> Richard Miner (Chair), Simon Crowther, Prof. Trevor Purt, Helen Troalen, <b>Attendees:</b> Adam Winstanley, Simon Balderstone, Sarah Dixon (NHSE), Lisa Mitchell <b>Apologies:</b> Hayley Flavell
1	<b>Agenda</b>	<p>The Committee considered the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finance Highlights Month 7 Report (including forward look)</li> <li>• Financial planning update</li> <li>• Quarterly Contract Award Support</li> <li>• Workforce plan and financial impact</li> <li>• Efficiency and Sustainability Group and Capital Planning Group 4A Issue Reports</li> <li>• Capital Planning Group 4A Report</li> </ul>
2a	<b>Alert</b> <i>Matters of concerns, gaps in assurance or key risks to escalate to the Board</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The year-to-date deficit is £10.9m adverse to plan which is itself a planned deficit for the year of £44.3m. This planned deficit is funded and, in essence, reduces the Trust to a break-even position.</li> <li>• As part of the work to mitigate the year-to-date deficit, savings have already been identified and work is ongoing through the various governance groups, together with PwC input, to improve the current position.</li> <li>• The pace of implementation of planned workforce changes poses a particular challenge. Unfunded pay awards have added to the existing list of pressures that also includes escalation and unavailability.</li> <li>• Varying divisional performance continues with MEC particularly challenged through its medical pay bill.</li> </ul>
2b	<b>Assurance</b> <i>Positive assurances and highlights of note for the Board</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current cash balance is £67.4m following deficit funding (cash support). Cash forecasting is monitored carefully and should be sufficient to the end of the year.</li> <li>• There is increasing alignment between financial and workforce governance.</li> <li>• The Trust is expecting to deliver at least 90% of its BAU efficiency target of £31.9m and £6.8m of the £12.8m escalation efficiency target.</li> </ul>
2c	<b>Advise Areas</b> <i>that continue to be reported on and/or where some assurance has been noted/further assurance sought.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Committee has asked for enhanced detail to be included in the monthly reporting on the forecast financial outturn, the workforce modelling and the mitigations against overspends and deficits.</li> <li>• Efficiency and Sustainability Group and Capital Planning Group 4As Issued and noted with no follow up actions required.</li> </ul>

2d	<b>Actions Significant follow up actions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The strengthened governance and control procedures will involve better communication and reporting through to FAC (assurance based rather than “line by line” detail) and the committee chair is due to attend the next meetings of the FRG on 27 November and 4 December.</li> </ul>		
3	<b>Report compiled by</b>	<i>Richard Miner, Chair, Non-Executive Director</i>	<b>Minutes available from</b>	<i>Lisa Mitchell</i>