

Chair's Report: Audit Committee

Date of Meetings	28 April 2016 24 May 2016
Chair	Sheenagh Powell

Areas of note from the Committee Discussion

The Audit Committee met on 28 April 2016 to review the annual report, governance statement and accounts which had been submitted in accordance with the national timetable for audit. The committee met again on 24 May 2016 to receive the External Audit completion report, have sight of any amendments during audit and to approve the accounts on behalf of the Governing Body in accordance with the Committee's delegated powers. This enabled the submission of accounts by the due date.

It should be noted that the annual governance statement as well as other year end documentation is required to be signed by the accountable officer. In discussions with NHS England and the CCG's auditors, Mazars, it was agreed that in Mark Hayes absence, Helen Hirst, as the interim accountable officer, would sign the documentation despite her not being in that role during the 2015/16 reporting year.

Other significant matters of debate were:

- With regard to the services received from the Partnership Commissioning Unit (PCU). Areas of note are three limited assurance audit reports during the year and, in addition, queries with the PCU during the year end audit.
- The limited assurance audit report on the City of York Better Care Fund and the concern around this important area of partnership working both for the end of last financial year when the audit was carried out, and lessons learned for this year.

Areas of escalation

A request has been made to senior members of the PCU to attend the Governing Body on 2 June with regard to the limited assurance audit reports and ongoing concerns.

Urgent Decisions Required/ Changes to the Forward Plan

The audited annual report, governance statement, remuneration report head of internal audit opinion and accounts are presented to the Governing Body today for comment, note and ratification.

It should be noted that the external auditors were satisfied with the financial statements and gave an unqualified opinion and concluded that they showed a true and fair view of the CCG's financial position. However the opinion that they are obliged to provide with regard to securing economy, efficiency, and effectiveness was qualified with an adverse opinion due to the significant financial issues the CCG faces in 2016/17 and beyond. In addition they will be closely monitoring the delivery of the financial plan and discussions with NHS England in connection with further statutory powers they may exercise.



**Vale of York
Clinical Commissioning Group**