

Cover Sheet

Trust Board Meeting in Public: Wednesday 14 May 2025

TB2025.50

Title: **Integrated Assurance Committee Report**

Status: **For Information**

History: **Regular Reporting**

Board Lead: **Committee Chair**

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Confidential: **No**

Key Purpose: Assurance

Integrated Assurance Committee Report

1. Purpose

- 1.1. As a Committee of the Trust Board, the Integrated Assurance Committee provides a regular report to the Board on the main issues raised and discussed at its meetings.
- 1.2. Since the last report to the Board held in public, the Integrated Assurance Committee had met on 9 April 2025.
- 1.3. Under its terms of reference, the Integrated Assurance Committee is responsible for reporting to the Board items discussed, actions agreed and issues to be referred to the Board, indicating the extent to which the Committee was able to take assurance from the evidence provided and where additional information was required.

2. Key Areas of Discussion

Corporate Risk Register (CRR) and Emerging Risks

- 2.1. A review of the Corporate Risk Register takes place at the start of each meeting. This allows members to seek assurance on specific risks and to provide a baseline for Committee discussion.
- 2.2. During the meeting, risks associated with project delivery, capability for transformation, and under-realisation of benefits were highlighted; a mechanism for tracking and assessing these would be developed.

Annual Plan 2025/26

- 2.3. The Committee was briefed on developments at national-level and their likely impacts on Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) and provider Boards.
- 2.4. The Trust's plan for 2025/26 had been submitted to NHSE and, based on the medium risk profile assigned to the Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West ICB, would be overseen at Regional level.
- 2.5. Place-based cooperation, mutual aid and work across the Acute Provider Collaborative were noted to be key enablers in delivering the Trust's plan.
- 2.6. An assessment of financial control in the clinical Divisions was presented. A session had been arranged in late May for Divisions to present their plans to the Trust Board. This would provide assurance that the Trust had the right staff in the right places to enable delivery.

Patient Care

- 2.7. The Committee was updated on the achievement of core standards at 2024/25 year-end and plans to focus on key pathways in Q1 2025/26.

- 2.8. The Chief Nursing Officer presented an update on the Friends and Family Test and outlined work in progress to improve assurance in this area.
- 2.9. The Committee reviewed the results of the Patient-Led Assessment of the Care Environment for 2024. Improvements had been shown across six domains and arrangements in place for making and monitoring short- and longer-term improvements.
- 2.10. An early draft of the Trust's 2024/25 Quality Account and draft Quality Priorities for 2025/26 was reviewed.
- 2.11. As part of a Deep Dive, the Committee was updated on the findings and action plans resulting from the following clinical audits: National Emergency Laparotomy Audit, Paediatric Asthma Audit, and National Vascular Registry Audit.

Maternity

- 2.12. The Trust had implemented a new process for induction of labour, aligned to the Southeast Maternity Induction of Labour Shared Principles Framework.
- 2.13. Improvement was noted in the following metrics: 3°/4° tears, postpartum haemorrhage, and ATAIN (avoiding term admissions to neonatal units).
- 2.14. Professor Lawrence Impey presented a review of 2023 MBRRACE data which demonstrated that the Trust was within, or marginally outside, average boundaries for perinatal mortality and stillbirth.

Other Reporting

- 2.15. The following regular reports were received by the Committee:
 - Maternity Performance Dashboard;
 - Summary of the January and February 2025 meetings of the Trust's Delivery Committee;
 - A summary of M10 Divisional Performance Reviews;
 - A six-month update on the Integrated Quality Improvement Programme, October 2024 – April 2025;
 - Patient Safety Incident Response Framework report for the period January and February 2025; and
 - Report on infection prevention and control matters.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1. The Trust Board is asked to **note** the Integrated Assurance Committee's report to the Board from its meeting held on 9 April 2025.